





# A GOOD NAME • A FAR REACH

have been blessed by opportunities to meet with eight Orthodox Christian patriarchs from multiple jurisdictions and have traveled to many of the world's religious places, such as Mt. Athos (seven times), Meteora, Fruška Gora, Patmos, and Ephesus, and several sites in the Holy Land, including: the Mount of Olives, Mount of the Sermon, Mount Tabor, and Mar Saba in Judea; Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Capernaum; and the Garden of Gethsemane and Dead Sea—discovering everywhere the far-reaching impact of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

The theological education, research, and scholarship of our seminary are highly regarded by those whom I have met. The influence of our St. Vladimir's Seminary Press and the distinguished reputation of our faculty, as well as the good works of our alumni, have been evident in conversations throughout my travels.

As a former chairman of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), which, like St. Vlad's, is a premier pan-Orthodox institution, I have observed humanitarian efforts in Beirut, Damascus, Tbilisi, and Amman; in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Serbia; and in Ethiopia and Cameroon. At the same time, in those same places, I've listened to the high regard in which St. Vlad's is held.

Proverbs 22:1 reminds us:

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

The stories in this Annual Report—written by those who have benefited from the ministries of our Dean, Chancellor, alumni, activities, and programs—attest to the "good name" of St. Vladimir's Seminary and to its far reach around the globe.

I am proud to be a part of our seminary and its mission to serve Christ, His Church, and the world. In my opinion, St. Vladimir's Seminary is perfectly positioned to provide the guidance necessary to help clergy and lay leaders from all Orthodox jurisdictions to positively influence the world and make it a better place. May its stellar reputation and its willingness to extend a hand continue, through God's grace.

Sincerely,

Alex Machaskee

EXECUTIVE CHAIR



ABOVE Our Board Chair, Alex Machaskee, with Patriarch Pavle of Serbia (+2009)

BELOW Alex Machaskee with clergy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

(Images courtesy of IOCC archives)

Alex Machaskee reads from the *Prologue from Ochrid* 

# BIGIS GO!

The Very Reverend Chad Hatfield, D.Min., Hon. D.D.

CHANCELLOR/CEO, ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY

By the Nuns of Monasterio Ortodoxo de la Santísima Trinidad, Guatemala

"Big is God!" That's how we feel when we think about the ways in which Father Chad Hatfield, a servant of God, has influenced our lives here at the Monasterio Ortodoxo de la Santísima Trinidad, Guatemala.

Many years ago, as spiritual leader of an **Orthodox**Christian Mission Center (OCMC) team, Father Chad came to our monastery and to the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage associated with it. He subsequently wrote in the Cathedral Messenger (December 2001) of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral, Wichita, Kansas: "Once we were at the orphanage, I checked out the beautiful chapel where I would be offering Divine Liturgy the next morning—in Spanish! I became right at home serving there."

Just as he felt at home with us on that very first visit, we nuns and the children at the Hogar now feel comfortable around him as our "Father." At main events in our lives, such as the consecration of the Monastery Church in 2007, and at the blessing of the new Orthodox Residence for Children in San Miguel by the Lake in 2013, Father Chad has always been present.

His most remarkable mission trip to Guatemala was with OCMC's Alaskan Team in 2004, when four missionaries, including Alaskan natives, came with him. He brought a

ABOVE RIGHT Father Chad at Monasterio Ortodoxo de la Santísima Trinidad, Guatemala

BELOW RIGHT Children of Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage (Images courtesy of Vicki Anton-Athens)





beautiful framed icon of St. Herman of Alaska (already a patron beloved by us), which contained the saint's relics. Father Chad wished Alaska and Guatemala to be united through St. Herman. What an unforgettable day!

In the ensuing weeks, the Athabaskan and Yupik native women on that mission team got along very well with our young Mayan girls. They shared dances and traditions, laughter and deep feelings—all hand-in-hand with the joy reflected in Father Chad's face. Up to this day, we remember this cherished team.

It has also been our joy to visit Father Chad during his service to God in Alaska and New York, sharing our lives and confessing to our "Father," a priest we love, trust, and cherish. May the Lord and St. Herman of Alaska continue to guide and protect him! Big is God!



# MY "LET THERE BE LIGHT" MOMENT

The Very Reverend John Behr, D.Рніг.

ALUMNUS '97, M.TH.
DEAN, ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY

By Chris Hunter, Catechumen

When I was 17, I used to walk my dog near
Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey, UK. One evening
out of the gathering twilight, a figure dressed from
head to foot in black stepped out from behind a
crumbling Victorian mausoleum. He was a monk at
the recently established St. Edward the Martyr
Brotherhood, which had taken over two disused

Brotherhood, which had taken over two disused funereal chapels in the cemetery.

With this chance encounter, so began 30 years of dilly-dallying with Orthodoxy. I began dropping into St. Edward's, as I liked the atmosphere and the structure of services I witnessed, but the "bridge" to become more involved was lost to me in a mist of girlfriends and parties. Luckily, the monks of St. Edward's have been very tolerant of me turning up to services over the years on an irregular basis.



ABOVE Chris in front of St. Edward the Martyr Brotherhood BELOW Becoming Human (SVS Press 2013, front cover)

When I went to college and then moved around for work, I always sought out local Orthodox churches to attend services. I obviously had an attraction to the Orthodox Church and slowly increased my knowledge of the practices of Orthodoxy, but the motivation to move forward, to take the time to push things further, was not quite there.

This changed about a year ago or so. I was reading an article in a copy of *National Geographic* about the laws of physics (or lack of them) inside black holes. The language used in the article, describing conditions past the "event horizon," incorporated words and phrases such as "believe," "speculate," and "where our understanding breaks down." The inability to be sure of anything beyond the "event horizon" reminded me of our perception of death. This got me pondering on why science and religion are not viewed more positively as mutually complementary. The points of agreement seem greater than those of conflict.

At the same time my mind was turning all this over, by the grace of God I had started listening to a lot of theology lectures from various Orthodox sources via "YouTube."



I came across lectures about "Becoming Human" and "Death: the Final Frontier," given by Father John Behr. What he said and how he expressed himself was the catalyst, as it were, I had been looking for.

It merged all the science and the physical realities of life with the deeply spiritual elements and created a single coherent image. It really was a "Let there be light!" moment!

I know that the will of God is ultimately to be thanked, but the words and thinking of Father John have made a huge difference to my life. I am now working with the guidance of the Fathers at St. Edward's to take my involvement with the Orthodox Church further, and ultimately, to Baptism.



Father John Behr's podcast,
"From Scroll to Book to Net
The Web of Knowledge"

Father John Behr's essay,
"These Scroll to Rook to Net



# HE'S THERE FOR YOU

His Grace Bishop Anba Suriel (Guirgis), Рн.D.

ALUMNUS '98-'99 BISHOP OF THE HOLY DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, TASMANIA, ACT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND ALL OCEANIA

By Ralph Toss, Former General Counsel to His Grace, and Reader in the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of New York and New England

Just a few words sum up His Grace Bishop Suriel: He's there for you.

The focus, sacrifice, and love His Grace demonstrates in making these words come true are beyond comprehension, because he's there for you while performing his duties as diocesan bishop, while working on his Masters and Ph.D. degrees, while doing ecumenical work, while fighting for Egypt's Coptic minority, and while doing missionary work in Fiji, Pakistan, and Tonga. Despite his heavy commitments, and in all circumstances, he's there for each sheep of his flock.

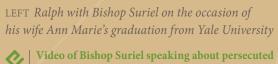
I first met Bishop Suriel at a youth retreat in 1998. This towering young bishop had nary a grey hair in his beard and spoke with an Aussie accent. Bishop Suriel reminded us Western youth that the Church was a relevant organism that could feed us spiritually. He had an obvious love for Christ and us, and needless to say—we fell in love with him.

When Bishop Suriel was appointed as day-to-day administrator of the Archdiocese of North America, how lucky I was to live just a few miles away! At that time, my father was sick, and His Grace visited numerous times, as if my father were his own. During the last few months of my dad's life, and in the midst of His Grace's studies, he was

still there for us: pacing hospital hallways at all hours, and praying with us, crying with us, and interceding on our behalf up to the moment of my father's death.

He's been there for countless others. He's flown back from dozens of international meetings to be with his children, hurt in heart-wrenching accidents or approaching the end of their earthly journeys. He's been there at weddings, baptisms, engagements, graduations, barbeques, and festivals. He's been there—in long black robes and black dress shoes, after neatly folding his panagia and putting it aside—to grab a tennis racket and beat us—dressed in shorts and sneakers—at a game. He's been there to guide meetings and strategy sessions seeking to make the Church relevant to God's people.

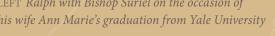
Following St. Paul's command, His Grace "rejoices with those who rejoice, and mourns with those who mourn" (Rom 12:15). Because he's been there for me, I am where I am. And the Church is where it is. We, collectively, couldn't have gotten here without his being there: obeying God's voice and loving God's flock.



Coptic Orthodox Christians in Egypt









The Reverend Jason Foster, Рн.D. ALUMNUS '09 RECTOR, HOLY NATIVITY OF THE LORD MISSION, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Everyone who visits, stays!

That pretty much accounts for the explosive growth at our church, Holy Nativity Mission, in Shreveport, Louisiana. But why people stay can be summed up in a word: family.

I was introduced to Holy Nativity when I called up my former college classmate "Jason" on a whim to settle a biblical dispute that I was having with another friend. I remembered that my college buddy had been a Baptist minister in Shreveport—but I didn't realize that he had eventually been ordained as an Orthodox Christian priest and was now "Father Jason"!

"You still religious?" I queried him on the telephone. In reply, Father Jason suggested we catch up at lunch, and he invited me to bring along my older son, Josh, a 14-year old history enthusiast.

Father Jason showed up with an ancient coin he had acquired while attending Oxford University and an old censer from the 12th century. His sensitivity to Josh's interests struck me. Then Father Jason invited my whole family to attend a vespers service, and from that moment on, we were sold.

Father Jason's ruling principle is

"Children are welcome here, no matter what,"

and the hospitable atmosphere created by his six young girls, and his wife, Matushka Ashley, have created a place where children are welcomed as members, not judged as nuisances.

Adults at the mission are treated with equal thoughtfulness. Even though Father Jason has a cohort of about 10–20 catechumens at any given time, he meets and counsels each one personally, instead of within a general class.

Especially memorable are Father Jason's two 24-hour "vigils" during Holy Week this past year. Most of us at the mission are converts to the Orthodox Christian faith, and many of us had never before participated in the Sacrament of Confession. So, Father Jason carefully scheduled enough time, throughout two entire nights, for each person to make a meaningful lifetime confession before receiving Holy Communion.

Our mission soon will begin constructing a wonderful church building (currently, one of our parishioners has secured a rent-free space for services), and we predict we'll triple in numbers...because, as my wife, Donna, says, "Everyone who visits, stays!"

ABOVE Part of the Greening Family with part of the Foster Family on a visit to St. Vladimir's Seminary campus: (from left) Josh, Donna, Reggie, and Matthew Greening, with Addison, Savannah, Mat. Ashley, Camille, and Father Jason Foster







# A LIVING BIBLE in action

A "living Bible"...that's how I think of Dr. Nicolae Roddy. Initially, he was my professor at Creighton University, but he now has become my mentor and friend as well.

As a naïve teenager, I left home for college in 1999 with a general idea of how my life would unfold. Much to my surprise, it turned out quite differently, and one important person who helped me navigate the detours was Dr. Roddy.

During my first semester at

Creighton, Dr. Roddy taught a required course entitled "Christianity in Context." He was the first Orthodox Christian I'd ever met, and his "orthodox" perspective and approach intrigued me. I first attended an Orthodox Christian parish with him, and with his help, established an OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) chapter at Creighton.

I took another course offered by Dr. Roddy, this time on the Old Testament, which really challenged my thinking. I, with other students, struggled re-reading through texts that seemed so different now than from when we had heard them in Sunday School. I appreciated Dr. Roddy's willingness to stick around after class to help us students. His care for students and love of

> the Bible helped him to dialogue with us and transmit his wisdom to us—as very few professors were able to do. Most importantly, he was able to integrate his deep knowledge of biblical texts into 21st-century living.

Our relationship grew over 15 years, and in 2012, Dr. Roddy came to speak at my parish about the Bible and archaeology. Spurred on by that retreat, some parishioners and I accompanied him on an archaeological dig this past summer to Bethsaida. What I noted most was that although Dr. Roddy is an esteemed scholar and archaeologist, he continues to learn and to assimilate his education into his daily life.

In Dr. Roddy I see someone who humbles himself before God, realizes and embraces his unworthiness, and yet, thankful for God's mercy, strives to show the world the likeness of God to which we all are called.

He has imparted to me not just knowledge of biblical texts, but has provided me with an example of a living witness of biblical tradition, a "living Bible" in action.

Nicolae G. Roddy, Рн.D.

ALUMNUS '89, M.A. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE HEBREW BIBLE, DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, OMAHA, NEBRASKA



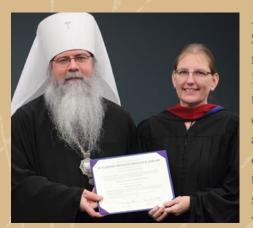
ABOVE LEFT Dr. Roddy in his study at Creighton University ABOVE RIGHT Dr. Roddy in the field at Bethsaida with Father Aaron Warwick

BELOW Father Aaron on the dig in Bethsaida

# GIVING UP a Saturday, GAINING a treasure

Tracy Davis Gustilo, Рн.D.

By Sarah Lantz, participant in the "St. Macrina Institute for Diakonia and Catechesis," Kansas City, Kansas



Almost every Saturday afternoon for the past year, I've spent at least three hours sitting in class—taking notes and participating in discussion. At first, that might not sound so appealing: Who wants to give up half

of every Saturday after a long workweek to sit in a classroom?

However, this isn't just any class. This is a course offered by the "St. Macrina Institute for Diakonia and Catechesis," recently organized under the auspices of the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). This three-year program gives students instruction appropriate to their diverse and specific needs: preparation for diaconal ordination, catechetical education, or simply a more informed articulation of faith.

Dr. Tracy Gustilo—along with Father Elijah Mueller, Father Joshua Lollar, and Father Timothy Sawchak (also St. Vladimir's alumni) and Liam Higgins—helped to get the local Kansas City program under the Institute going in January 2014. Twelve students of all ages and backgrounds

from various parishes and jurisdictions signed up: one student would like in the future to serve as a deacon, while others aspire to prison ministry, therapeutic responses to various addictions, mission work, or teaching—as well as personal growth in faith.

Dr. Gustilo, and two other talented instructors having differing particular interests and strengths, teach, so an expert is usually nearby to answer any type of question. I appreciate their efforts immensely! The classes and assigned readings truly nourish my soul and inspire me. Every Saturday I remember how grateful I am to be part of this new endeavor.

We are all extremely grateful to Dr. Gustilo and her colleagues for working so hard to provide us with this rare opportunity to learn and to build community.

Who wants to give up half of every Saturday after a long workweek to sit in a classroom? We do!



Audio of Dr. Gustilo discussing St. Irenaeus Website of St. Macrina Institute for Diakonia and Catechesis

ABOVE LEFT Dr. Gustilo receiving her Master of Arts degree from St. Vladimir's Seminary, presented by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

BELOW Dr. Gustilo (center) with her Kansas City students at the Institute





# BOOKS worth returning to

St. Vladimir's Seminary Press wonderful. You have a book for me."

By the Very Reverend John Shimchick, Alumnus '80, M.Div.; '99, D.Min. Rector, The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, New Jersey



My Life's Jowney
The Memoirs of Metropolitan Evogy
Introduction by Thomas Hopko



ABOVE NY-NJ Diocesan delegation led by Bishop Michael with Archbishop Abel (Father John, rear left)

Father John's article "In Poland with America's Team," Part One & Part Two
Order My Life's Journey: The Memoirs

The pastor in the cartoon on my daily calendar sits in his office, a phone to his ear. Various signs on different shelves of the full bookcase behind him declare: "Books I have read. Books I want to read. Books I have tried to read. Books I should read." And the caption states: "Ah, Mrs. Smith, how wonderful. You have a book for me."



I have come to view some volumes on my own shelves as old friends with whom, after decades, I am still in conversation. Others, undisturbed for years, will occasionally and suddenly call out: "Now is the time." And, I will obey and take them down. A new version of one of these latter recently arrived by post from SVS Press.

I already owned the original 1947 Russian version of Metropolitan Evlogy's memoirs, *My Life's Journey*—a gift from the Seminary's former librarian, Stephen Beskid. Part of it had helped me in writing my M.Div. thesis in 1980. Diminishing language skills and lack of time, however, made my good intentions of ever finishing the book very unlikely...until my new English translation arrived, just in time for a significant journey I was about to take!

I was preparing for a summer trip to Poland with our diocesan hierarch, Bishop Michael, Fr. Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk, and my eldest son, John. We would be guests of Archbishop Abel, who leads the Diocese of Lublin and Chełm, where Metropolitan Evlogy had served in various capacities and as Bishop of Lublin.

Our group was planning to visit his cathedral, to wander through the same areas and hear of the same historical battles that Metropolitan Evlogy had experienced and described. His memoirs would illuminate our way.

Metropolitan Evlogy (1868–1946) understood the difficulties of church life as experienced within the Russian Orthodox theological educational system and ecclesiastical structures. He was well aware of the theological tensions between Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Greek Catholics, and the political confusion emerging between Russians, Ukrainians, Communists, and supporters of the Tsar. Yet in the midst of it all he could share the following story:

I will mention, by the way, that Metropolitan Platon said something that is still relevant to this day. "The barriers which people have set up in the Church do not reach heaven." The following situation brought on these words. Metropolitan Platon was passing by a Catholic church in the town of Korostyshev in the Kiev Province, and suddenly came upon something unusual—the church bells were ringing and the priest was in the doorway holding a cross. So he came out of his carriage, went inside the church, said some prayers, and told the priest that he was gratified by his welcome and uttered the abovementioned memorable comment. Both the Catholic and Orthodox Church leadership were displeased with this encounter (p. 258).

The translation of *My Life's Journey* has now moved to a different location on my bookcase: "Books I will return to." And, the 1947 gift from Stephen Beskid will find a new home on a shelf in the Seminary's library.

# LET'S PRAY SOME MORE!

The Reverend Andrew Cuneo, D.Phil.

ALUMNUS '10, M.DIV., RECTOR, ST. KATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA ORTHODOX MISSION, CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

By Donnie Carmichael, Parishioner, St. Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Mission, Carlsbad, California



At that moment, I knew
I had found a very special place,
my San Diego church home ...
and, a very special pastor.

LEFT Donnie Carmichael with Father Andrew in their home church, St. Katherine's

"Let's pray some more!" I can picture
Father Andrew Cuneo's smiling face
as he says this, especially after Divine
Liturgy on his way to bless the food and
drink at coffee hour. I've been enjoying
this favorite expression of his, and
that smile, ever since I became
a member of St. Katherine
Mission two and half
years ago.

When I first
moved to San
Diego, I had
a new job and
new apartment,
but no close

church ties. I called Father Andrew to introduce myself and to obtain St. Katherine Mission's schedule for the celebration of Theophany—a holy day that carried for me memories of home, family, friends, and feasting.

Immediately, Father Andrew invited me to a joint Theophany service with another local parish, and a luncheon at a parishioner's home, where I discovered that within our small U.S. Orthodox world, we all had mutual friends—pretty phenomenal, given I'd moved to San Diego only two days earlier!

The following Sunday, at St. Katherine Mission for Divine Liturgy, Father Andrew announced we would be praying the "Great Blessing of the Water" at the beach and also having coffee hour there. At that moment, I knew I had found a very special place, my San Diego church home ... and, a very special pastor.

Father Andrew has three main qualities that continue to bless my journey toward God.

First (and best of all), he listens, patiently taking in all my information and thoughtfully giving simple, orderly, fatherly direction. Second, Father Andrew loves to read the "Lives of the Saints" to us parishioners after Vespers, and during that time, I feel like a little kid again—with story-time before bed. Third, he encourages monastery visits and spiritual pilgrimages.

I left home in New Hampshire, that's true...but God, through Father Andrew, his family, and our parish, has brought me home again.



# GUATEMALA a field ripe for harvest

# Jesse Brandow

ALUMNUS '13, M.DIV., ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER (OCMC) LONG-TERM MISSIONARY

By the Very Reverend John Chakos, OCMC Mission Specialist



I watched as Jesse—with camera in hand, a sense of mission history in his head, and a love for the Mayan people in his heart—began to make an accurate record of the remarkable journey of the long-suffering Mayan people.

ABOVE TOP Newly christmated Orthodox Christians

ABOVE BOTTOM Jesse with Mayan friends in Guatemala

Jesse Brandow's stirring podcast expressing his enthusiasm and love for the Mayan people Jesse's missionary journey on Facebook I first met Jesse Brandow two summers ago in Guatemala at a time of momentous church growth in that country and Southern Mexico. While still a seminarian, and with some fluency in Spanish, he had come to Guatemala on a short-term missionary assignment to witness a compelling social and political movement among the Mayan people, who while seeking land reform were also eagerly embracing the fullness of Orthodox Christianity. The impact of this experience left him a changed man.

I watched as Jesse—with camera in hand, a sense of mission history in his head, and a love for the Mayan people in his heart—began to make an accurate record of the remarkable journey of the long-suffering Mayan people. Through his photos, Jesse saw and was moved by their outpouring of affection for Father Andres Giron (+ February 16, 2014), their charismatic leader in this great movement of faith and land reform. He also captured the unbridled joyous celebration of the first pastoral visit of their newly appointed hierarch, Archbishop Athenagoras of Mexico.

Together Jesse and I witnessed these stirring events, feeling the clergy and laity's passion for Christ and His Orthodox Church. As a result, Jesse and I began to talk about his perceived calling and possible candidacy to serve as an Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) long-term missionary to the vibrant Guatemalan flock that had gained his affection. We also talked about his evolving vision to document fully the Mayan people's travail through a brutal civil war, persecution, forced displacement from their ancestral homes, and abandonment by the Catholic Church because of their controversial choice to seek a more spirited form of worship, and their eventual entry into the Orthodox Church.

I look forward in the days and months ahead to working with Jesse in this apostolic field, already ripe for harvest. I believe that his efforts will place the Guatemalan Orthodox Church and its many villages squarely on the map of worldwide Orthodoxy and be a source of greater understanding for future missionary endeavors among the Mayan people.

# WALKING ALONGSIDE



After years of church ministry, my wife and I found ourselves in a quandary: our denomination had started to crumble from the top down. Suddenly, the spiritual life we'd known was in question. We couldn't stay in the denomination we had been a part of, but we had no desire to start up a new church. Meanwhile, my father-in-law, our church's pastor, had started conversing with the priest at St. Elijah's, Father Constantine Nasr, about our congregation's possible conversion to Orthodoxy.

Orthodox worship was worlds apart from the "worship" we were accustomed to. My wife, Andrea, and I had led our congregation in choruses of praise with piano, guitar, drums, and microphones. Initially, I thought Orthodox worship couldn't be very different from Catholic and Episcopal practices, but nothing could've prepared me for what I experienced witnessing the beauty of my first Divine Liturgy. Yet, I remained skeptical.

In many marriages, the husband makes the decision for Orthodoxy first; the discipline of Orthodox spirituality and practice usually attracts men! But for us, this was not the case; my wife first concluded that Orthodoxy was a good fit, while I remained unsure.

Thus began a long series of conversations with Father Jeremy Davis, assistant priest at St. Elijah's, starting with a lunch meeting. I had countless questions, and he answered them all with patience, understanding, and love. I still remember the last question he asked as we finished that first lunch: "What do you need from me in this journey?" I answered: "A friend," and he responded: "I'll try and be that."

Along with my wife and myself, a number of other young people in our church posed similar questions. At home-based get-togethers we bombarded Father Jeremy with our opinions, questions, and preconceived notions about Orthodoxy. Again, he patiently answered and counseled us on our journeys.

In large part, Father Jeremy's friendship brought us to Orthodoxy, and we have baptized our three subsequent children in the Church. Godwilling, future generations will embrace Orthodoxy because of God working through humble and devoted priests like Father Jeremy—priests willing to be true friends of Christ (John 15:15) and true friends with His brothers and sisters.

# The Reverend Jeremy Davis

ALUMNUS '04, M.DIV. HIEROMONK, ST. ELIJAH ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

By Brandon Baca, Parishioner, St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



ABOVE Father Jeremy Davis at St. Elijah's Church, Oklahoma City



Tour of St. Flijah's conducted by Father Jeremy



# TAPPING my teenage POTENTIAL

# Khouria Leslee (Nicola) Abud

ALUMNUS '82, PRE-THEOLOGICAL PROGRAM IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION; CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR, YOUTH DIRECTOR AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, FLINT, MICHIGAN, AND ASSOCIATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA (AOCANA)

By Tamer Abuaita, Parishioner, St. George Orthodox Church, Flint, Michigan



At age fifteen, I was a very motivated kid—involved in many different school organizations, playing on the soccer team, and still maintaining good grades. Additionally, I was also a member of our local Teen SOYO, a chapter of the national organization, Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations, of our Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church here in the U.S.

Still, I felt unfulfilled—even with everything I was doing. But Khouria Leslee Abud, then our parish's Youth Director, had the uncanny ability to see my potential (as she does everyone's), and she tapped into it without reserve.

Around election time for new Teen SOYO officers, she encouraged me to become the organization's president. At first I hesitated, thinking I didn't have time for another activity; but through her persistence and persuasion I ran and was elected.

During my year of presidency I learned a lot about my capabilities—and myself. I was stretched spiritually, as Khouria Leslee influenced my leadership qualities. She helped me become detail oriented while keeping in mind the bigger picture. She helped me accomplish my goals and helped me understand why my goals needed accomplishing. She inspired me, allowing me to experience the exact amount of failure and success necessary to grow and (eventually) to make decisions on my own.

Although my time in Teen SOYO has long passed, it is evident that Khouria Leslee still has the same love for and positive effect on teens in our parish, diocese, and archdiocese—never giving up on them and always encouraging them.

Truly gifted by God to perceive potential in every single person, she gently but firmly taps into it, while continuously persuading each person to live up to their promise. Now, as a grateful college grad soon to enter medical school, I cannot thank her enough for tapping into mine!

ABOVE Khouria Leslee with youth of St. George's Church on their second-ever camping trip: 2 nights, 3 tents, 5 meals, fishing and lots of marshmallows!

BELOW Khouria Leslee with teens volunteering at their local Salvation Army

(Images courtesy of Kari Farah)





# THE Sound of the Spirit

Discover more about The Arvo Pärt Project

Arvo Pärt and Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

# The Arvo Pärt Project at St. Vladimir's Seminary

he Arvo Pärt Project at St. Vladimir's Seminary began with a relationship built upon a common faith shared by Arvo Pärt, famed Estonian composer, and seminary faculty members Dr. Peter C. Bouteneff and Dr. Nicholas Reeves. It blossomed into a concert-lecture series presented by the Seminary in May and June 2014 in New York City. The concert-lecture series focused on the spiritual underpinnings of Pärt's music, which are inspired by early Christian chant and the ancient yet ever fresh teachings of the Orthodox Christian Church.



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt Thousands attended the "All-Arvo Pärt Program," Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall

Metropolitan Tikhon, president of the Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir's Seminary, greets Arvo Pärt at the Carnegie Hall reception

Dr. Nicholas Reeves, co-director of the Arvo Pärt Project, with HE Marina Kaljurand, Estonian Ambassador to the US, presenting Arvo Pärt with an oil painting by Patrick Reeves, reflective of the event's publicity

(from left) Fr. Chad Hatfield, Metropolitan Tikhon, Fr. John Behr present Arvo Pärt with an icon of St. Vladimir

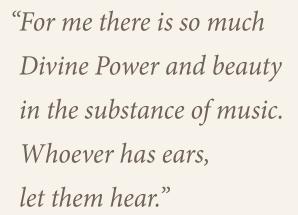
Dr. Peter Bouteneff, co-director of the Arvo Pärt Project, with Arvo and Nora Pärt

Composer Arvo Pärt and conductor Tõnu Kaljuste receiving accolades after the "All-Arvo Pärt Program," Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall

(Images ©Eleri Ever eleriever.com)

The "All-Arvo Pärt Program" at Carnegie Hall and the performance of the piece *Kanon Pokajanen* in the Temple of Dendur at The Metropolitan Museum of Art attracted thousands of people from all walks of life. A panel discussion at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, webcast by Met Media and entitled "Spirit in Sound and Space: A Conversation Inspired by Arvo Pärt," included Dr. Bouteneff, architect Steven Holl, and neuroscientist Robert Zatorre.

Media buzz and rave reviews (e.g., *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*) and packed venues perfectly exemplified the Seminary's far reach and its mission to engage the surrounding culture with Orthodox Christianity. A continuing relationship with Pärt—including the Seminary's bestowal of a Doctor of Sacred Music degree upon the composer—and with his Arvo Pärt Centre in Estonia promises future collaboration.



— Arvo Pärt, Estonian composer and Orthodox Christian







# FINANCIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

\$29,100,108

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS				
Current assets	\$	999,769		
Investments	\$	\$ 13,756,054		
Inventory	\$	808,307		
Fixed assets (land & buildings)	\$	13,374,119		
Other assets	\$	161,859		
Total assets	\$29,100,108			
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
Current liabilities	\$	422,194		
Mortgages & loans payable	\$	2,924,417		
Annuity & life trusts payable	\$	138,120		
Net assets-unrestricted	\$	12,255,908		
Net assets-temp & perm restricted	\$	13,359,469		

Total liabilites & net assets

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

TOTAL REVENUES	\$	7,224,552
Less:		
Program expenses	\$	3,386,360
Supporting services	\$	2,092,398
Total expenses	\$	5,478,758
Net surplus (deficit)	\$	1,745,794
Net assets, beginning of year	\$2	23,869,583
Net assets, end of year	\$ 2	25,615,377



# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Net cash provided by investing	\$	(98,641)
Purchase of fixed assets	\$	(53,171)
Net proceeds from investing	\$	(45,470)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Net cash used in operations	\$	566,593
Net cash from payables	\$	6,558
Net cash from inventory	\$	23,149
Net cash from receivables	\$	(50,936)
Investment (gains) losses	\$(	(1,747,967)
Depreciation	\$	589,995
Net surplus/(deficit)	\$	1,745,794
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		

# **CASH FLOWS FROM** FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Proceeds of debt	\$ _
Repayment of principal on debt	\$ (122,18
Net cash provided by financing	\$ (122,18
Net increase (decrease) in cash	\$ 345,766
Cash, beginning of year	\$ 35,550
Cash, end of year	\$ 381,310

LEFT St. Vladimir's Seminary's Community in Three Hierarchs Chapel

RIGHT A delegation from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate, led by His Eminence, The Most Rev. Metropolitan Philip, archbishop of Poltava and Myrhorod, presented the community with the relics of St. Vladimir and a rare Book of Gospels

(Images courtesy of Leanne Parrott Photography)

The **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION** lists the assets, liabilities, and net worth of an institution.

The STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES contains information on revenues and expenses, noting either a positive or negative change in net assets for the fiscal year.

The **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS** lists sources of funding for an institution—from operations, investing activities, and financing activities—and the amount of cash provided by each of these sources.

At the end of FY2014, the Seminary showed net assets of \$25,615,377 and a net increase in cash of \$345,766, with an ending positive cash balance of \$381,316. Additionally, the Seminary received a clean, unqualified Audit Opinion by independent auditor D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants & Consultants:

> *In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above* present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary as of June 30, 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.









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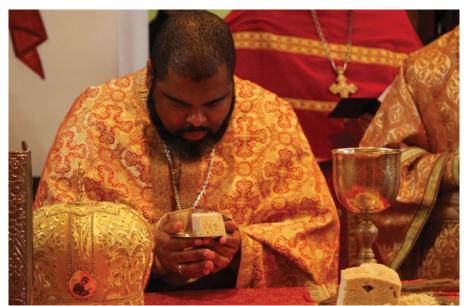




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(Image courtesy of SVOTS archives)

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(Images courtesy of Leanne Parrott Photography)

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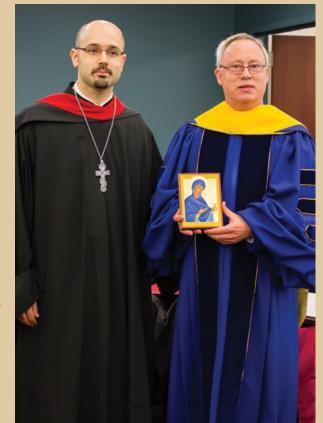
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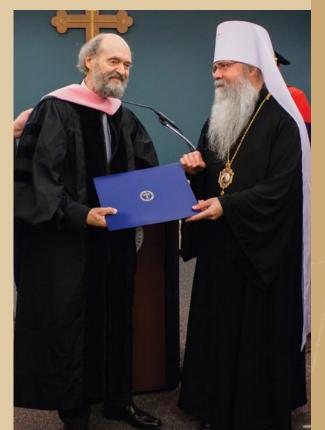
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LEFT Dr. Paul Meyendorff receiving the "St. Macrina the Great Award" from the Student Council President, Father Alessandro Margheritino, in recognition of his dedication and achievements as a teacher, at Commencement 2014

RIGHT Famed Orthodox Christian composer Arvo Pärt being presented with a Doctor of Divinity degree, honoris causa, by the President of the Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir's Seminary, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America, at Commencement 2014

(Images courtesy of Leanne Parrott Photography)







Travel schedule of our Dean, The Very Reverend Dr. John Behr, for upcoming half year

6-8 FEBRUARY • Cambridge, United Kingdom • Presentation: "Patristic Text as Icons," in Madingley Hall at the Friends of Mount Athos Symposium titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth': A Symposium in Honour of Metropolitan Kallistos

28 FEBRUARY • Milan, Italy • Presentation: "Life's Beginning and End, and the Way to Approach Illness," at a conference sponsored by the Theological Faculty of Northern Italy, Archdiocese of Milan, in collaboration with 13 other theological schools and themed *Iesus Christ and the New Humanism* 

7-11 MARCH • Manton, CA • Lenten Retreat: Monastery of St. John of San Francisco

14 MARCH • Shirley, NY • Lenten Retreat: St. John the Theologian Church, Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff, rector

19-20 MARCH • Wheaton, IL • Presentation: "Divine Simplicity," at a conference at Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies, Wheaton College

26–29 MARCH • Waco, TX • Lenten Retreat: St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Priest John Ballard, rector

14–19 APRIL • Vienna, Austria • Presentation at the University of Vienna, and meetings with Orthodox Christian communities and

1-5 MAY • Colchester, United Kingdom • Presentation: "Forgiveness and Healing in the Face of Moral Injury," at a symposium at Wivenhoe House, University of Essex, sponsored by The John Templeton Foundation

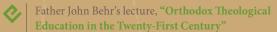
21–24 MAY • Prague, Czech Republic • Presentation: "From Synchronic Mind to Diachronic Symphony: Returning to the Fathers after a Neo-Patristic Detour," at the International Scientific Doctoral and Post-doctoral Conference, Ecumenical Reception and Critique of 20th Century Orthodox Theology in Exile and Diaspora

3-10 JUNE • St. Petersburg, Russia • Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Postgraduate School of the Russian Orthodox Church and the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

28 JUNE-2 JULY • Madrid, Spain • Presentation at *The Bare* Life and the Moral Life Symposium, St. Louis University's Madrid campus

20–24 JULY • Atlanta, Georgia • Representative of St. Vladimir's Seminary at The All-American Council, Orthodox Church in America

10−14 AUGUST • Oxford, UK • The XVII International Conference on Patristic Studies







ABOVE TOP Father John Behr (right), dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, with Pope Tawadros II (middle), the 118th and current Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, Egypt, and His Grace Suriel (left), bishop of the Diocese of Melbourne and Affiliated Areas, of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Australia (Bishop Suriel is featured on page 5 of this Annual Report). Father John is presenting the Pope with his translation of a work by St. Athanasius of Alexandria, On the Incarnation (SVS Press, 2012). Father John visited Egypt in June 2013, and in 2016 Father John will teach a summer program at Bishop Suriel's school in Australia, the St. Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Theological College in Donvale, Victoria.

ABOVE BOTTOM Father John Behr presents an icon of St. Vladimir to His Beatitude Daniel, archbishop of Bucharest and patriarch of Romania, who has blessed a cooperative agreement between St. Vladimir's Seminary and the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Bucharest



