



PRESENTATION OF PRIMATIAL GRAMOTA TO THEODORE BAZIL
SAINT VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OCTOBER 30, 2025

In Metropolitan Tryphon's glorious Akathist, which we just celebrated, we sang: "Glory to thee, making good to be its own reward within us." And truly, good is its own reward. Our good deeds, our self-sacrificial acts, our service to one another: this is a way of laying up treasure in heaven. But as the Lord says, "The kingdom of heaven is within you." Because the practice of true goodness is nothing other than cooperation with the grace of God and the doing of his will, whenever we do good, we are making room in our heart for God to be present. By doing good, we allow our hearts to become, by grace, a heaven where God dwells and a kingdom where he reigns.

It is with this in mind that I would like to express my primatial thanks to Theodore Bazil for his many years of service to St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and the Orthodox Church in America.

Ted, you have been an integral part of the fabric of St. Vladimir's Seminary for the past fifty-five years laboring tirelessly in service of the Seminary's mission. Your faithful service began from the time you were here as a student and has continued unabated for over five decades since receiving your Master of Divinity degree. Whether you were serving as Business Manager, as Director of SVS Press, as Recording Secretary for the Board of Trustees, as Director of Advancement CFRM, as Planned Gifts Officer, or as acting Chief Operations Officer, you have consistently offered yourself as an example to all of a genuine follower of Christ and servant of this community. On these sacred grounds, you offered yourself, not primarily to buildings and facilities, but rather to the human persons who lived, labored, and prayed here —

the seminarians and their families, the faculty, the staff, the Board of Trustees, the alumni, the donors and supporters of this institution. Successive generations of these many constituents have come to know, Ted, along with your faithful wife Claudia, as a pillar of Saint Vladimir's Seminary and its mission. But beyond these sacred grounds, you have become known to the wider Church – Bishops, priests, deacons, and faithful from many parishes and missions – as an advocate for the work of the local Church here in North America through your exemplary labors and sacrifices.

Because good deeds and true service are their own reward, a divine and heavenly reward, there is nothing that my thanks can truly add to that. However, to discharge some small part of my own debt of gratitude to you for your service, I thank you, Ted, for all your labors. More importantly, I pray that the Lord may himself reward your service in this present age and in the age to come. As a tangible expression of my gratitude, and by extension, the gratitude of the fulness of the Orthodox Church, I am pleased to bestow on you this primatial gramota.

