

Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, Director of Alumni and Recruitment
Alumni E-News • March 2012

Dear Fellow SVOTS Alumni,

Greetings from St. Vladimir's Seminary. As always it has been a very busy Great Lent here at SVOTS, and one full of great blessings. Among those blessings are the increased number of prospective students expressing interest in St. Vladimir's. Our alumnae will be happy to know we have quite a number of applications from woman for both the M.A. and M.Div. degrees. Of course we are always looking for more students and we always appreciate and count on the help of our alumni in the field to assist in identifying those young (and old) men and woman who have been called to serve the church and learn about the Orthodox Faith in deeper ways. This brings me to our first piece of news—

FULLY FUNDED TUITION PLAN

As you have no doubt seen by now, we have launched a new and ambitious scholarship program to help defray the costs of a St. Vladimir's Education. Our "Fully Funded Tuition Plan" illustrates the extent to which we are committed to our students being able to leave St. Vladimir's debt free and ready to apply their skills to the growing of Our Lord's vineyard. For more information on the plan please visit our website. If you know of potential students who might benefit from a tuition-free seminary education, please be in touch with Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak at jmatusiak@svots.edu or by phone at [914.318.7505](tel:914.318.7505).

ALUMNI BOARD ELECTIONS

We have just launched our 2012 Alumni Board Elections. All SVOTS Alumni are encouraged to participate in the election of three (at-large) board members. The Alumni Board is made up of nine members, and reserves seats for the Serbian Orthodox Church, Antiochian Orthodox Church, Oriental Churches, Orthodox Church in America, and Greek Orthodox Church, and for representation by women, with the remaining seats being at-large members. This is an attempt to keep each group that makes up our alumni represented. The candidates this year are: Greg Abdalah (AOCANA)—SVOTS '07; Nick Bellack (GOA)—SVOTS '08; Archpriest Paul Hodge (AOCANA)—SVOTS '93; Popodeia Michelle Jannakos (OCA)—SVOTS '83; Dena Fokas Moses (GOA)—SVOTS '05; Archpriest Andrew Morbey (OCA)—SVOTS '83.

To view brief biographic information on the candidates and to cast your ballot please visit our website, [here](#).

ORIENT CONCERT / ALUMNI NIGHT OUT IN NYC

Join us for an evening of liturgical music and alumni fellowship on Monday, May 7 at St. Malachy's, The Actors' Chapel, in New York City's Theater District. The concert will include liturgical music sung in the traditional styles of Orthodox Christian churches worldwide. In a multimedia program that interweaves luminous icons, sacred texts, and a rich a cappella sound, the St. Vladimir's Seminary Chorale will perform *ORIENT: Sacred Song and Image*. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Buy tickets [here](#).

The concert program will include pieces from the broader Orthodox tradition sung in their original languages— Greek, Georgian, Estonian, Slavonic—as well as choral music by Orthodox composers written for the concert hall. Two visual projections—one of images of Orthodox icons

and the other of translations of musical texts—will run simultaneously as the chorale sings. Icons, music, and text will expound one another, just as they do within the Orthodox liturgy. The concert will combine the best elements of a professional choral performance with the depth and authenticity of the Orthodox liturgical experience, resulting in a truly beautiful multimedia artistic performance, and a full, authentic vision of the Orthodox Christian faith.

After the concert we invite you to join your fellow alumni and seminary faculty for fellowship at a local restaurant. For more information please contact Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak at jmatusiak@svots.edu or by phone at [914.318.7505](tel:914.318.7505).

VITAL SIGNS

Congratulations to Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky and Matushka Margarita who will be retiring from 49 years of active ministry in the Church. Father Vladimir graduated from SVOTS in 1960. He was ordained to the diaconate that same year and to the priesthood in 1961 by Archbishop Benjamin of Pittsburgh. Upon ordination Father Vladimir served St. Innocent Chapel (at that time one of the few English Language liturgies in New York City at Holy Protection Cathedral). In 1963 Fr. Vladimir was transferred to Holy Trinity Church, Parma, Ohio, and it is from Holy Trinity that Father and Matushka will retire from their active ministry. May God Grant Father and Matushka many, many years.

Congratulations to Alumni Board Member Priest Theodore Paraskevopoulos (SVS '05) and his Presvytera, Joanna, who on January 16 welcomed their twins George and Katherine into the world. Father Theo was also elected President of the Clergy Association of Canada for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada back in May 2011 and appointed National Youth Director of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada in November 2011. May God Grant many years to his servants Father Theodore, Presvytera Joanna, and George and Katherine.

Congratulations to Archpriest Constantine White (SVS '79) who yesterday received a Twenty-Year Service Award from Georgetown University for his years of continual service as the full-time Orthodox Chaplain at the university. May God grant many years to Father Constantine and Matushka Nina.

Please continue to send information on your vital signs or milestones to Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak at jmatusiak@svots.edu.