



## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

Serving the Orthodox Community as THE Independent  
Voice and Advocate For Renewal and Unity

*Orthodox Christianity in America cannot grow  
divided into separate boxes...*



*In America, God's Will for the Orthodox Church  
is a single, inclusive vehicle.*



**27th Annual Meeting and Program  
Open Forum Discussion on the Progress:  
Assembly of Canonical Bishops of U.S. and Central America  
Alexei Krindatch, Research Consultant, Regional Planning Committee**

October 23-25, 2014  
St Vladimir's Orthodox Christian Seminary  
575 Scarsdale Road  
Yonkers, New York 10707

## **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY MISSION**

OCL is an independent, national, Pan - Orthodox, 501 C 3 non profit, educational association, incorporated in State of Illinois March 17, 1988 for the purpose of advancing the renewal of the Orthodox Christian Church in the United States: by: advocating the laity remain part of the conciliar governance process which provides balance to the hierarchy and clergy all working together in governance, spiritual and other matters to insure accountability and transparency in the affairs of the church; OCL is committed to establishment of an administratively and canonically unified self-governing Orthodox Church in the United States.

# VIDEO MESSAGE

**By His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
To the Assembly of of Canonical Orthodox Bishops  
of the United States of America  
(Dallas, September 16-18, 2014)**

Venerable brother hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America,

It is deeply moving for us to join you in spirit and in prayer as you commence the deliberations of your meeting.

We assure you of our personal wholehearted prayers and the sincerest wishes of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Indeed, all of the Primates of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches look to your Assembly with hope and optimism, recognizing with spiritual joy and pride that you comprise the largest in number and broadest in representation of our Churches. As you gather in Dallas over the next days, remember that – as you sit at the same table, as you share the same discourse, and as you enjoy the same meals – you are visibly and tangibly expressing both the unity and the diversity of our Church.

In light of the Great and Holy Council that, with God’s grace and our cooperation, will convene in the Spring of 2016 – after many decades of preparation and in accordance with the decision of the Primates during our last Synaxis at the Phanar in March of this year – we invite and expect your input and contribution, on the basis of your experience acquired over many years in the United States of America.

We congratulate you on your commitment to express one mind and speak with one voice on the critical social issues of our time. Moreover, we humbly urge you to continue growing in the unity of our common faith and to continue increasing in mutual trust through the mystical cup of the Eucharist.

Beloved brothers,

Our brief greeting is not simply formal or conventional. We are addressing you because the time has surely come for us to move beyond words to actions. We know much better than what we actually do. We are called to put our theory and theology into policy and practice. We are called to move beyond what is “mine” and what is “yours” to what is “ours.” From now on, this is how we should conceive and conduct all of our ministries and resources, all of our departments and initiatives. Otherwise, we do not practice what we preach. It is really up to us to accept the challenge or to refuse the call.

May God bless, keep and guide you in the sacred task to which we have all been ordained and consecrated.

# **Preparations for a Great and Holy Council begin September 2014**

On 3 October 2014, the Special Inter-Orthodox Commission for Preparing the Pan-Orthodox Council concluded its session. The commission chaired by Metropolitan John of Pergamon (Patriarchate of Constantinople) was working in Chambes, Switzerland, from September, 30. With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church took part in the meeting. The delegation was headed by Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, and included archpriest Nikolai Balashov, DECR vice-chairman, and deacon Anatoly Churyakov, a DECR staff member.

The Commission reviewed draft documents of the Pan-Orthodox Council on inter-Christian relations, adopted at the 3rd Pan-Orthodox Preconciliar Consultation in 1986. The participants in the meeting took into account considerable changes that had taken place in a whole number of Protestant denominations in recent decades.

At its subsequent meetings, the Commission will continue to edit and amend draft documents of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church.

The Pan-Orthodox Preconciliar Consultation, due to be convened next year in compliance with the decision of the Meeting of Primates of the Orthodox Local Churches which was held in March 2014, will consider the results of the Commission's work.

Posted by Josephus Flavius

Website Byzantine Texas

## **WELCOME**

### **Susan Haikalis, President of Orthodox Christian Laity**

Welcome to the 27th Annual Program Meeting of Orthodox Christian Laity. The focus of these meetings that have been presented in 23 different cities in the United States during the past 28 years has been to bring together the best speakers and interested audiences to discuss the renewal and unity of Orthodox Christianity in our particular geographic area. A list of programs is included in this brochure.

This year's program is OCL's fourth Open Forum that focuses on the work of the Assembly of Bishops as they pray, work, develop and finalize a blueprint to bring the Orthodox Church in the United States in Canonical order. The bishops have been meeting for five years to develop and agree upon a blueprint to bring about a unified Church in the USA. We are fortunate to have

three speakers who will provide us with insights on the process, progress and timelines for the development of this plan which will be presented to the Secretariat of the Autocephalous Churches in the Spring of 2015 and which will eventually be discussed as part of the Great Council of Orthodox Bishops which will be convened in 2016.

We are pleased to present Alexei Krindatch who is research coordinator with the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the U.S and Central America. His resume is enclosed. Mr Krindatch has been working closely with the Regional Planning Committee of the Assembly. We thank him for taking time out from a busy schedule to share his work with us today.

We are also grateful the His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel, Primate of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and a member of the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America. We congratulate him on his thirty year anniversary as Primate of the Romanian Episcopacy of America. May God grant him many years to teach the word of His Truth. He has been the spiritual advisor of OCL for the past fifteen years. We are grateful for his guidance, prayers and fellowship.

We are honored that His Grace Bishop MICHAEL G. DAHULICH, Ph.D., Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey is with us to share his thoughts on the work of the Assembly of Bishops. This is our first meeting with His Grace and we know that he is an example of a servant Bishop and he has already made a difference sharing His time, talents and pastoral blessings with you in this diocese. May God grant him many years to teach the word of His Truth.

Orthodox Christian Laity is grateful for the invitation extended to us to hold our 28 Annual Meeting on this beautiful and historic campus. We were here in 2001 for a Board Meeting when OCL and St Vladimir's Seminary Press co-operated and completed a joint venture to re-print "Toward an American Orthodox Church The Establishment of an Autocephalous Orthodox Church" by Alexander Bogolepov. This book is more relevant today than when it first appeared in 1963. It is part of our heritage as Orthodox Christians in this land.

Thank you for the invitation Father Chad Hatfield, Chancellor and board member Anthony Kasmer to hold our 28 Annual Meeting at St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. But none of this would have been accomplished without the attention to details provided by Ann Sanchez assistant to Father Chad. You are gracious and efficient. We also thank Matushka Deborah Belonick and her communication network for assisting OCL in getting the word out about this meeting. We thank Giorgios Kokonas in the technology department for recording the discussion.

A special thank you to all of you and we ask you to pray for the work of the Bishops so that they work in synergy with the Holy Spirit and each other to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ to love one another and be a Mission to all Christians in this geographic area.

# **Working in synergy with the Holy Spirit and Each Other!**

The members of OCL are prayerfully grateful for the dedicated and exhaustive work of the Assembly of Bishops and its Committees in developing the blueprint for a Canonical self-governing Orthodox Church in the United States. We are hopeful that the time, talent and resources that have been expended these past five years to establish such a canonical Church will result in a blueprint that meets the spiritual and religious needs of the faithful People of God who live in this geographic area. A good result will enable the Church to retain its faithful, inspire its youth, and be a vibrant and eloquent mission Church in the USA.

We are grateful to the Autocephalous Primates who have directed the bishops of the United States to assemble and to develop a plan that they can all agree upon. The eyes of the world are on the work of this Assembly because it is the largest and most diversified Orthodox Church in the lands outside of the traditional Orthodox territories. We are grateful to His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch for his vision of gathering the Autocephalous Orthodox Primates at the Phanar on two occasions to charge and reaffirm the work of the Assemblies of Bishops throughout the world.

We are grateful to His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, for his inspiring charge to the Dallas Assembly asking the bishops to accept the tremendous challenge before them and to move beyond words to action and to perform the duty they were ordained to do which is to work in unity and love in teaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the salvation of souls.

We are grateful to Archbishop Demetrios for gathering the bishops together and shepherding them to this point in time. He now needs our prayers in gathering the resources that assist the bishops to make necessary adjustment of differences, accommodations, and concessions and to move beyond what is 'mine' and what is 'yours' to what is 'ours.' We also thank Bishop Basil for the work of the Secretariat and Bishop Nicholai for the work of the Regional Planning Committee. We sincerely thank all the other Bishops and their committees for their conscientious work and the plans that they have developed.

We are grateful to the dedicated staffs that are assisting the bishops. We are grateful for the generous benefactors who have contributed to making the meetings possible. We are grateful to the lay and clergy participants at the Open Forums which have discussed the work of the Assembly that have taken place in Dallas TX, Cleveland OH, Washington, DC, West Palm Beach FL, and Moraga, CA. We also thank all the faithful who affixed their names to the Petition Supporting the work of the Assembly of Bishops. This petition was sent to all the bishops for whom we had e mail addresses.

We ask the faithful People of God to continue to fervently pray for the bishops and work of the Assembly as they begin to finalize a workable plan for a canonical autocephalous ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA that can be presented to the Great and Holy Council in 2016.

Continue to be informed by checking the Assembly and OCL websites.

**George Matsoukas,**  
*Executive Director OCL*

## **Orthodox Christian Laity 27th Annual Meeting Program**

**Rangos Building: Metropolitan Philip Auditorium**

*I saw the largest and best part of the Orthodox Church in the Diaspora, and I understood how exalted the name of Orthodoxy could be, especially in the United States of America, if more than two million Orthodox people there were united into one church organization, an American Orthodox Church."*

*- Ecumenical Patriarch Meletios IV (January 1922)*

**Welcome Susan Haikalis, President**

**Progress of the Assembly of Bishops towards Achieving Orthodox Unity in the United States: Where are we? What are the timelines?**

**Alexei Krindatch, Consultant to the Regional Planning Committee,  
Assembly of Bishops**

**Comments on the Work of the Assembly of Bishops**

**His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit, Primate of the  
Romanian Episcopate of America**

**His Grace Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey**

**Questions from the Audience**

**Informal Reception**

# His Eminence Archbishop Nathanael of Detroit

Archbishop Nathaniel (secular name William George Popp; b. June 12, 1940) is an American Romanian Orthodox clergyman, the current archbishop of the Orthodox Church in America's Romanian Episcopate.

Born to a Romanian-American family in Aurora, Illinois, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1966, in the Romanian Greek-Catholic Church. He soon left the Catholic Eastern Rite and, under the guidance of Archbishop Valerian Trifa of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, converted to Orthodoxy on February 15, 1968. After residing in a monastic community for several years, Fr. Popp became the rector of a parish in Hermitage, Pennsylvania.

On November 15, 1980, Fr. Nathaniel was consecrated Bishop of Dearborn Heights, as an auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Valerian Trifa. He served as bishop until 1984, when Abp. Valerian retired. On November 17, 1984, Bishop Nathaniel became the ruling hierarch of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America; on October 20, 1999, the Holy Synod of the OCA elevated him to the rank of archbishop. He is celebrating the 30th Anniversary as Primate of the Romanian Episcopate. May God grant him many years and good health to teach the word of His Truth.

Archbishop Nathaniel traveled to Romania in May 2003, where he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Oradea.

Following the resignation of Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen) in July 2012, Bishop Nathaniel was appointed as the locum tenens of the OCA.

## His Grace, Bishop Michael of the Diocese of New York & New Jersey

### Profile

- B.Th., Christ the Savior Seminary; B.A., St Vincent College; M.A., Ph.D., Duquesne University
- Associate Professor of New Testament and Ethics
- Area of teaching: New Testament, Ethics

### Biography

THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL G. DAHULICH, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament and Ethics, has earned degrees from Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown, Pa. (B.Th. in Theology), St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. (B.A. in Philosophy), and Duquesne University (M.A. and Ph.D. in Theology).



In 1973, Fr. Michael was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by the late Bishop JOHN of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese. He served as Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese and the Secretary to two bishops. He was the Director of Religious Education for the Johnstown Deanery and the Dean of the parishes of the Mid-Atlantic Deanery. He worked as Associate Editor of The Church Messenger and compiled and edited the prayerbook Come to Me. He served as a member of the Study and Planning and Ecumenical Commissions of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.

He began teaching at St. Tikhon's in 1994; prior to that he was on the faculty at both Christ the Saviour Seminary and Duquesne University. He has delivered numerous guest lectures and led several spiritual retreats. He has written extensively for The Church Messenger and Alive in Christ and has a recurring column on "Sobornost" in The Orthodox Herald. He is a member of the Orthodox Theological Society of America and represents the OCA at the advisory council meetings of the American Bible Society.

## **Alexei D. Krindatch, the research coordinator with the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.**

Alexei D. Krindatch is a sociologist of religion. He was born on May 22, 1966, in Moscow, Russia, to a family of scientists. He graduated cum laude from the Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia) with a major in human and economic geography. He completed postgraduate studies at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russia) and further augmented education by completing a program on "Religion, Human Rights and Religious Freedom" at Columbia University (New York, USA).

From 1991-2004, Alexei Krindatch worked as a research associate at the Center of Geopolitical Studies of the Institute of Geography (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia). His work focused on the religion in the former Soviet Union and religious revival in the post-Communist societies, especially Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia and Moldova. In 1995, he published a book "Geography of Religions in Russia" (published by Glenmary Research Center: Decatur, Georgia).

Since 2000, Alexei has been increasingly involved in the study of American Orthodox Christianity. In 2001, in the framework of the national "Religious Congregation Membership Study 2000," Mr. Krindatch compiled the first ever county level database on the memberships and parishes of the Orthodox Christian Churches in the USA

During 2005-2009, Mr. Krindatch served as a research director at the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, CA. He developed and administered the Institute's new "Parish Life Program."

In 2010, Alexei assumed position of the research consultant to the "Standing Conferences of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas". In 2011, Mr. Krindatch was appointed research coordinator with the newly established Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.

In 2010-2011, Mr Krindatch directed first ever US National Census of the American Orthodox Christian Churches which provided comprehensive membership and church attendance data:

- for each American Orthodox Church (both Oriental and non-Oriental)
- for each local individual Orthodox parish
- for each geographic area of the US (county, state, or census region)

The National Census of the American Orthodox Churches and Christians is designed as a part of the US "Religious Congregations Membership Study 2010"

Alexei Krindatch holds memberships in the number of professional associations (Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Religious Research Association, Association of the Statisticians of American Religious Bodies). He is author of more than 50 publications.

Mr. Krindatch can be reached at: [Akrindatch@aol.com](mailto:Akrindatch@aol.com), 1-773-551-7226

## **OCL Annual Meetings (incorporated 1987)**

### **Program Themes**

1. January 14, 1989 Chicago, Illinois Organizational Meeting –Ratification of By Laws.
2. June 4, 1989 Rye New York Meeting with Archbishop Iakovos who invited OCL to hold its Second Annual Meeting, Rye, November 10-11, 1989.
3. Third Annual Meeting, November 9-11, 1990, Chicago, Illinois. Theme: Together We Care.
4. Fourth Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 1991, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: Orthodoxy: A New World Vision
5. Fifth Annual Meeting, October 23-24, 1992, St. Louis, Missouri. Orthodoxy: Rediscovery and Renewal.
6. Sixth Annual Meeting, October 29-31, 1993, New York, New York. Theme: A Call to Unity: One Christ, One People
7. Seventh Annual Meeting, October 28-30, 1994, Skokie, Illinois. Theme: Embracing our Spiritual Identity.
8. Eighth Annual Meeting, November 17-19, 1995, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: Orthodox Unity in America.

9. Ninth Annual Meeting, October 11-13, 1996, Sarasota, Florida. Theme: Transition-Renewal: One Faith, One Church.
10. Tenth Annual Meeting, November 14-16, 1997, Boston, Massachusetts, Theme: The American Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
11. Eleventh Annual Meeting, October 9-11, 1998, Los Angeles, CA. Theme: Orthodoxy in the Next Millennium and the Role of the Orthodox Christian Laity.
12. Twelfth Annual Meeting, November 12-15, 1999, Berkeley, CA. Theme: The Ethos and Identity of American Orthodoxy: A Vision for the 21st Century.
13. Thirteenth Annual Meeting, October 12-15, 2000, Dallas, Texas. Theme: Individual Responsibility in the Church.
14. Fourteenth Annual Meeting, October 20-21, 2001, Oak Brook, Illinois. Theme: Orthodox Christian Diversity...and the Unity We Seek.
15. Fifteenth Annual Meeting, November 8-9, 2002, Detroit, Michigan. Theme: Returning Home: Bringing our Youth Back to Orthodoxy.
16. Sixteenth Annual Meeting, October 31-November 1-2, 2003, Cleveland, Ohio. Theme: The Orthodox Christian Ministries Networking Conference.
17. Seventeenth Annual Meeting, October 29-30, 2004, Oak Brook, Illinois. Theme: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Intention of Ligonier.
18. Eighteenth Annual Meeting, October 7-9, 2005, Dedham, Massachusetts. Theme: How to do Pan-Orthodox Ministry Successfully Orthodox Christians United: Building Up the Body of Christ.
19. Nineteenth Annual Meeting, November 3-4, 2006, The College of Notre Dame, Doyle Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: The Present state and Future of Orthodoxy in North America.
20. Twentieth Annual Meeting, November 2-3, 2007, Chicago, Illinois, Saints Peter and Paul Fellowship Hall, Glenview, Illinois. Theme: The Need for a Great and Holy Council.
21. Twenty-First Annual Meeting, October 31-November 1, 2008, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Theme: Bringing Together Area College Students of Learn about establishing Orthodox Christian Fellowship Programs on their Campuses. Presenters included Rutgers University OCF.
22. Twenty –Second Annual Meeting, October 29-31, 2009, Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA. Theme: The Road to Unity – From Vision to Action.
23. Twenty- Third Annual Meeting, October 15-16, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT. Theme: Process of Building a Unified Orthodox Church in the United States.
24. Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting October 7-8, 2011. Pittsburgh, PA, Theme: Remembering the work and leadership of the Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders of Americas: CEOYLA.
25. Twenty- Fifth Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 2012 Washington, D.C. Theme: Our Orthodox Past- Our Orthodox Present- Our Orthodox Future.
26. Twenty – Sixth Annual Meeting October 31-November 1, 2013, Moraga, CA, Theme: The Assembly of Bishops and the Future of Orthodoxy in America.
27. Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting October 23-26, St Vladimir’s Seminary, Crestwood, NY. Theme: Progress of the Assembly of Bishops towards Achieving Orthodox Unity in the United States: Where are we? What are the timelines?

# The Orthodox Christian Laity Angels

To the following contributors, we offer gratitude and sincere appreciation for the assistance rendered toward making our Angel Drive a fiscal success. Your support and confidence inspires us to keep going in our efforts to fulfill our mission of strengthening the role of the laity in the life of the Church and renewal of the Apostolic Lay Ministry. Thank You!

*Contributions received by October 15, 2014*

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