

REPORT OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN BISHOP

Archdiocesan Assembly 2007
Saint Paul University
Ottawa, Ontario 17-20 July 2007

This Assembly coincides with the remembering of the 20th anniversary of my having been ordained to the High Priesthood of the Church. I use that term, because that is what is used in all our services, and terms which refer to the Episcopacy. I like this term, because not only does it show continuity with the priesthood in general, it by itself refers a person directly to the One High Priest, our Saviour Jesus Christ, whom any bishop/high-priest is supposed to be representing. So I begin my comments with giving thanks to the Lord for all His mercies, in all things, at all times, in all places. I give thanks for the guidance He has always given us, for His protection, for the witness of a great many holy persons, and for the support of the prayers of both the living, and the departed faithful. I give thanks particularly for the protection of the Most Holy Theotokos, and also for the intercessions of the Prophet and Forerunner John, and for the prayers of St Tikhon of Moscow, and of St Arseny of Winnipeg. And it is important, also to underline that in saying these things, I say them on behalf of all of this. The bishop/high-priest is not separate in any way from the diocesan flock. I have always tried to be careful in myself never to think of myself in any way but as a part of this Christ-protected flock. By your prayers, I hope never to stray, although I do stumble, because I, too, am a human being. So the memory of the 20 years is OURS, all together.

So much has happened in these last twenty years, and the changes are so far-reaching. It is really important to give thanks to the Lord, because our Church life in general has so much improved in Canada, and it is all because He has directed this. Our Archdiocese has grown. Father Dennis, our Chancellor, says we have quadrupled, and our monastic presence has grown greatly. And the relationships among all Orthodox Christians in Canada are very different, as well. Before, we were mostly separate islands unto ourselves, and now there is very wide cooperation, which includes annual meetings of the active canonical bishops. And there is far more than can be outlined in this context, but this is simply to indicate some hints as to the changes for the good that the Lord has wrought in our midst, and the reasons for our need to express gratitude – daily.

It is not as if everything came easily. There have been, indeed, a lot of temptations faced by all of us, in various forms. These temptations always accompany blessings, as the Adversary tries to undo the Lord's work. There has been, therefore, a steady increase in our understanding of spiritual warfare, and our need to be vigilant in Christ. We have been growing up. The main tool of the Tempter tends to be fear, and he tends to apply this to interpersonal

relationships in the flock of Christ, in order to separate the sheep, so as to swallow them. Thanks be to God, we are learning in this field, also, to be aware of these activities, and to flee for refuge to the Saviour. We are learning to guard our unity in Christ's love. We are growing up. In any family, be it the regular family, the parish family, the diocesan family, we all support each other, and we all intercede for each other, we guard this unity as a family, and for that reason, we have now had for many years our ever-expanding Intercession List. This year's is rather late, for several reasons. But I am grateful to know that many faithful are using it.

It is useful, at this juncture in our life, and in our somewhat trying context, to remember a couple of past details, in the context of this thanksgiving. It is important that we remember to give thanks particularly for Archbishop Sylvester, and for Metropolitan Theodosius. We do not live separate from, or independent from, our context of life. So it was with Archbishop Sylvester. He came to Canada from France in the early 1960s, and in touring the country, and seeing both strengths and weaknesses, he expressed the need to have bilingual priests serving here. At the time, the Holy Synod did not find it possible or feasible, for whatever reasons. Archbishop Sylvester made various attempts, but it was a very difficult time. Then, later, he had to become for a time Administrator of the OCA. All along, despite the difficulties he faced, including no diocesan financial resources, he nevertheless built up the community in Montréal in which he lived, and he developed very significantly the St John of Kronstadt Charity there. Through the support of the faithful of this, he helped a lot of needy refugees, widows, and orphans around the world. Even though his hands were tied in many ways, it is nevertheless important to remember that just before he retired, he blessed four new English-speaking missions. This Archbishop is a true example of perseverance in the face of seemingly insuperable obstacles. In his faithfulness, he in his way exemplified the words given to St Silouan: "keep your mind in hell, and despair not".

Following the retirement of Archbishop Sylvester, we had for a time Metropolitan Theodosius' overseeing a reworking of the administration and the laying of a foundation for all that was to follow. He directed that the Archdiocesan Council meet regularly, and correctly; that we have proper incorporation, and by-laws; that our finances are properly in order. He visited intensively, regardless of all else he had to do. He directed that the bishop be properly supported, and that he have an independent residence, and a properly functioning office. There is much more that both contributed, but it is on the basis of their work, and their self-sacrificing offerings for the sake of Christ's Church, that we are now what we are. Gratitude is a main characteristic of a Christian.

Some significant things have happened in the course of the last three years. One must be the hosting of the All-American Council in Toronto, Ontario, in 2005. It is not that “we” as such did so much. We, as a diocese, are too thinly spread across the country to do this properly. Locally, in the Toronto area, however, the convening of the Council gave our several OCA dioceses the opportunity to work together. The hosting of the Council, the meeting of people, the registering, and many other details enabled this. It was, however, the staff of the Central Administration that did the “lion’s share” of the work in organising. The hospitality of Canadians was well-received and appreciated by those from the USA”. Another significant event has been the acquisition of a new building for our Cathedral in Ottawa. Through God’s providence, and the Protection of the Theotokos, we have now one of the largest buildings in the OCA itself, and certainly in Canada. We are also among the largest buildings of all Orthodox in Canada. This acquisition, a former Roman Catholic Church, has, as one of our priests has aptly said, given our Diocese a face, not only in Ottawa, but in Canada. Glory be to God.

I would like to continue by noting the area of Education, Mission, and Ministry. One of the most significant events of 2006 included the invitation by the University of Winnipeg’s Theological Cooperative to the St Arseny Institute to affiliate with this Cooperative, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This Cooperative had in recent times acquired official recognition by the ATS, and it offered the Institute the ability to offer, therefore, accredited courses. The documents were officially signed. Then came quickly the invitation to participate in the offering of the MDiv degree. This required the rapid development of courses to enable this offering. The faculty modelled their courses after the usual offerings of St Tikhon’s, and St Vladimir’s Seminaries. The proposal has now been accepted by the University of Winnipeg. The rapidity with which things have developed – so many things in so short a time – has been interpreted by those involved as miraculous, and the result of the prayers of Archbishop Arseny of Winnipeg. This is not at all the only instance in which the intercessions of our beloved predecessor, Archbishop Arseny, are perceived.

The second important aspect of this development will be the greater ease that Canadian students wishing to study at one of our USA seminaries will have in doing so. It is necessary always to recall that Canadian students must pay as much as twice the cost of study as compared to US students, and that no Canadians can work in the USA to defray these costs. That the course offerings allow significantly for distance education is an important feature in the Canadian Church, in which the diocesan territory stretches for 8,000 km from east to west, and for at least 2,000 km to the north on territory served by us. Even if we live here, it is necessary to repeat such statistics. Managing to maintain the correct balance in Orthodox teaching staff is difficult on the local perspective, however.

Further developments in Orthodox Christian study, along complementary lines, continue in Québec, with the Université de Sherbrooke's broad offering of Orthodox courses in Montréal ; in Ottawa, with the broad offering of Orthodox courses through the Sheptytsky Institute of St Paul's University ; in Toronto, with the offering of an MA in Eastern Orthodox studies through the Toronto School of Theology ; and in Saskatoon with its cooperative offering of an annual or semi-annual St Vladimir's Institute. It is important to remember that it is possible to receive a PhD in Theology through St Paul's, Ottawa, in Orthodox areas of study.

The Psalter According to the Seventy, produced by us some seven years ago, is in its final stages of revision towards a second edition. There is also almost completed a noted version of the same Psalter, which we hope to provide also, soon. The Web-site is now about to be revised in its format, to make it more generally usable, and there are two other language-versions now available – Russian and French.

Missionary attempts continue to develop across the diocese. In 2006, finally it became possible to open an English-speaking Mission Station in Toronto. This small group of faithful faces many challenges, particularly since the great majority of Toronto Orthodox communities are driven by various national agendas. In Vancouver, by contrast, we have opened two English-speaking Mission Stations, and a University Chaplaincy. There is a second Chaplaincy apparently in formation. A new station has developed around Cranbrook, BC. It seems that more Orthodox persons are moving to within driving distance of 2-3 hours of Cranbrook. Looking after the missions, their development, their maintenance, is a great challenge. We need to do our best to meet the needs of people, but we also depend greatly on the Lord for the resources (of which we usually have nearly none) to accomplish this. This means not only financial and physical resources, but also, of course, clergy.

The continued process of the restoration of Holy Resurrection Church in Sifton, Manitoba draws the attention of many. The renewal of an annual pilgrimage in Sifton is also increasing in attendance. In this tiny hamlet, which was once a large town, there is a renewed sense of life. It was in Archbishop Arseny's time that the Church was constructed, near the Monastery of the Ascension, and it was there that the first Orthodox orphanage, and then the first pastoral school, in Canada were developed by the same archbishop. I knew a departed parishioner of Holy Trinity Sobor, who was one of the builders, while still a child. Again, Archbishop Arseny's intercession is felt time and again in this renewal process, as commented upon by various persons.

Here in Canada, the inter-Orthodox relationships continue to improve slowly. We have the annual meeting of canonical bishops in Toronto, usually held in association with the annual bishop-level dialogue with the Roman Catholic Bishops. This dialogue has been healthy, and the Roman Catholics

have learnt a lot about us! Of course, we have also about them. The canonical meeting itself has helped a lot to improve communication, and to offer opportunities to concelebrate, often marking special occasions in each other's dioceses. The relationship with the bishop and clergy of the Moscow Patriarchate is steady, and constructive. The relationship with many of the ROCOR clergy is also very positive, even warm. It remains to be seen how things clarify now, after the reunion with the Moscow Patriarchate, but most clergy hope for a better relationship, and the progress in mutual forgiveness. I do know that there have been some concelebrations, but in some places this is not possible as yet. This is to be expected, since this was the result of the reception of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada by the Patriarchate of Constantinople. The normalisation process took some years. In one particular case, we have had hopes for a closer relationship with the Women's Monastery in Bluffton, Alberta, which was originally established in the time of Archbishop Ioasaph, in the 1930s. However, fears and false rumours introduced to them drove them farther away, rather than closer.

We were given last year the blessing of being able to receive a blessed copy of the Port Arthur Icon of the Theotokos. In Russian, such an icon is called a *spisok*. It was well-received in its progress across Canada, and it is expected to be taken to several places in the USA during this present year. There have been reported several instances of answers to prayer through this icon. When it is not travelling, it is resident at the Cathedral in Ottawa. The St Innocent Missionary Society of Toronto has the intention, in time, to build a chapel for this icon in that city. There are other *spisoks* in Canada, thanks to the kindness and fraternal love of Orthodox in Ukraine and Romania. This, I hope, will help us all know the Lord's loving presence and activity with us in a better way. Mercifully, too, in these days, there are far more relics of various saints in our parishes than ever before.

This year, we have the privilege, joy, and responsibility of serving during this Assembly in our new Cathedral building in Ottawa. This former Roman Catholic structure, a basilica shape, will require considerable adjustment to make it serve us properly. The process is being engaged very carefully, and deliberately. It is also, of course, a very expensive undertaking. Nevertheless, our having taken this building at this time did a favour to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa, and at the same time gave us a presence in the city's core. Being in the Chinese district, perhaps better described as an Oriental district, it is a good situation for Lenten periods! In this context, it is good that we will hear

from Father Luke Veronis. It is important that we hear such a person. It is too easy for us to be too comfortable, and to forget our missionary imperative in Canada, our primary responsibility to this country, as directed by the Lord, and as supported by both the Theotokos, and the Forerunner, both historic persons considered protectors in Canada for centuries already.

Renovations are continuing at the Archdiocesan Centre to the south of Ottawa. Some will be able to travel there on Friday, following the conclusion of the Assembly, for a visit, and for a cup of coffee or tea. The rather old structure, with its often-makeshift repairs, is requiring more focussed attention at this time. Thanks to a group of people at the Cathedral this time, there was a major renovation of St Arseny's House, the secondary building of our Archdiocesan Centre, in which the bishop currently lives. Here, also, at the Bishop's Chapel, there is the first sign that a missionary venture might be possible, since there are some Orthodox people living in this area. This structure, regardless of its needs for improvements, has given the diocese a sense of centre, and a stable presence with offices, library, and archives, together with a bishop's residence. Fair Haven has also regained its historic rural character in the increase of the numbers of hens and ducks, and now newly-born goats. Hiéromoine Ambroise (Nicoviotis), who had arrived earlier to serve at the Chapel, and help in other ways, has returned for now to France, since his father had a stroke. In the end, circumstances dictated that he remain there. Nevertheless, services are offered when the bishop is at home, of a Saturday.

The series of volunteers to serve as driver, cook, and general help to the bishop was generally progressing well. These volunteers have served gratis, except for the provision of room and board for periods of about three months. At this very time, however, we have a hiatus. Jesse Butler, the last volunteer, served a double term. His anticipated successor, at the last moment, took another direction, and so we wait for the next person to volunteer. At this writing, there are no others offering themselves, so the bishop returns to his former habits.

The failure of the process to find an Auxiliary Bishop led to a short period of silence on the subject. In November of last year, the Archdiocesan Council determined that it is very important to renew the process. The vast distances on the diocesan territory, and the increasing numbers of communities, and of faithful, require the need for proper and adequate pastoral visiting of all these is already long past being possible for any one person. Therefore, recently, I have begun again entertaining suggestions, and preparing for making another petition to the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod for an Auxiliary Bishop in Canada. I am requiring that the person nominated agree in writing to this nomination. So far, none has so indicated, although there have been some attempts to nominate.

We needn't rush too much, however, since any possible entertaining of a nomination by the Holy Synod will not likely proceed until after the current financial-administrative crisis of our Central Administration is clarified. We hope this will be quite soon. Still, it is necessary that the Metropolitan have an auxiliary, even before we do.

The increasing number of my absences from the diocese on foreign trips for one purpose or another has been increasingly commented upon by various persons. There are three apparent reasons for the concern: one is the neglect of the diocese that results, another is that I am getting older, and such frequent trips will have their negative consequences. Another still is, who pays. My faithful adopted aunts, Olga Jurgens and Helene Culhane, provided most of the following list of such trips for my clarification, and I find it a useful reference, although it is not absolutely complete:

1988 - Egypt ; 1990 - Norway, England ; 1992 - England, Holland ; 1993 - Portugal ; 1994 - Ukraina ; 1997 - Russia, Rome, Istanbul ; 1998 - Finland ; 1999 - Ukraina ; 2000 - Russia, Ukraina, Portugal ; 2001 - Finland, Russia ; 2002 - Ukraina, Russia ; 2003 - Ukraina, Australia, Greece ; 2004 - Georgia (2x), Russia (2x), Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Czechia, Egypt ; 2005 - Rome, Russia, Ukraina ; 2006 - Brasil, Slovakia, Romania, Sweden, Ukraina ; 2007 - Finland, Russia, Mt Athos.

These particular absences reflect the nature of my absences for various reasons : pilgrimages, dialogues, conferences, meetings of various sorts, Official OCA visits, either with or without the Metropolitan, within and without the OCA. They also reflect some partly personal trips. Of these, Norway is certainly so, and sometimes so is Finland. A few times, I have been abroad, attempting to make retreats, although they always become a "busman's holiday", as do the visits to Norway and Finland. A bishop, it seems, cannot make a vacation like other people, or at least this one does not manage. Most of the absences have had to do with Central Administration responsibilities, directly or indirectly connected with External Church Relations, and those paid for mostly from the Central Office. If these absences were not directly paid by "Syosset", they were paid by us in lieu of our direct contributions to the Central Administration. Personal trips and pilgrimages are paid for by me, or supporters.

I realise that it is important to try to reduce such travels abroad, but a certain balance of them is required regardless, for the sake of our OCA's presence, or "face" abroad. More to the point here, is the fact that, because of the nature of the Orthodox Church (we believe we are the Body of Christ), our life as a whole requires personal contact, and not just sporadic contact. It is like in a family, like in a parish, like in a diocese. So this balance is not easy to achieve.

We will be hearing from the Standing Focus Group, as they report on their work, subsequent to their proposals to the Council. These proposals deal with attempting to meet the administrative needs of the diocese, and also with the need for raising funds. One new factor which may help greatly in future is the establishment of the St Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards. I want to thank the persons who comprise this Group for the work they are doing. It is not that the subjects considered are necessarily new, but that there are fresh eyes and hearts involved. However this will, in the end, progress, it is really important that we forge ahead in refining the fundamental structures of the Archdiocese. Local communities and groups of communities need to be reinforced, and encouraged, and communication and mutual trust need to be fostered. Even if we are blessed with one, or two, or more bishops in the future, our development is not dependent so much on how many bishops we may have, as on how well the faithful in local communities work together, pray together, and support each other in general.

As for the Archdiocesan Office, there is clearly a need for someone capable of, and confidential enough, to establish, finally, a permanent system of proper record-keeping. There is nothing lacking in the existing filing-system. The matter has to do with coordinating normal clergy information files, parish information files, and details having to do with lesser clergy, and so forth, most of which would normally be kept, and kept current, all this in a computer database. Until now, despite good intentions, no one has been able to develop one, and of course we have no money.

In this context, we have also to remark on the Web-site of the Archdiocese. Its address is: www.archdiocese.ca. Father John Hainsworth of Victoria, BC, began this project some years ago. He is the first “architect” of the web-site. As it developed, he was supported by Father Justin Hewlett of Vancouver, BC. The work became very big, because of the all the different kinds of information needing to be made available, and because of all the time required to do this. At the direction of the Archdiocesan Council, measures were taken to relieve the pressure, and Alexander Ovodov of Vancouver’s Holy Resurrection Sobor was named to lead this process. He has begun his work on improving the way of making this information available, and he is drawing on a larger and larger circle of voluntary contributors. This circle does not grow so very fast, because communication in the Archdiocese in general is slow, difficult, and full of gaps.

We have a long and difficult history in our communities, owing in part to the difficulty of distance. This problem is rather ameliorated since I first entered the Archdiocese in 1978. Nevertheless, the “culture” of isolation that naturally existed when the next parish was at least an 8-hour drive away has not completely gone away. There is still, to this day, a tendency for communities to

consider themselves almost independent islands, not relating to the nearer communities. We don't very well participate in the greater festivals of one another's parish. Even if the bishop shows up in an area, there is not a general gathering of the faithful in the place of celebration. Either we say it is too far, or our communities are too fragile to miss a Sunday, or for the parish to have a reader's service while the priest is away with the bishop. This is one area where we have to grow up a bit. It is my hope and prayer that we will make progress here in the coming years, because it truly is a sign of Christian spiritual maturity as Orthodox.

I want to conclude my remarks this time with drawing again our attention to the importance of caring for those in need, both locally and abroad. Among our faithful, there are many, but not nearly enough, who support needy persons, mostly children, abroad, and many in Ukraine. Christian Child Care International is one main focus of this for us. There is also support for a children's hospital in Moscow, and children's hospices in St Petersburg. Among our faithful, there are many, but not nearly enough, who are caring for the abused, often children, abroad, and many in Ukraine. NASHI, as reported previously in the Messenger, is one main focus of this. There is support for the Mission of St John the Compassionate in Toronto, which is very good. There is care for the needy in many of our parishes. It is crucial that we not ever forget those sent to us by the Lord. Even those who are difficult to care for often become firm members of our communities.

Finally, it is important to repeat what we must all remember always about ourselves, and about our mission: the Church is not a society of the perfect, it is a hospital for sinners. In this hospital, we are all ill, somehow, and we all support each other, help each other, so that we can, together, progress towards true health in Christ. Let us always admit that we can do nothing good upon the earth, as we say in the Liturgy of St Basil, but that in Christ, we can. Let us turn to Him, who is the Lord of the Church, and of all creation, at all times, and in every place. Let us offer the work we do together, here, now, to Him.

I apologise for the length of this report.

**Submitted by
the unworthy
+Seraphim
Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada
2007**

ANNEX: Bishop's Report

1. Pastoral Visits, & Partial summary since last Assembly

2005

November

20	Montréal	Sign of the Theotokos
21-26	Slovakia	Funeral of Metropolitan Nikolai of Presov, Czechia, and Slovakia
27-29	Edmonton	50 th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Church

December

4	Ottawa	50 th Anniversary of Annunciation Cathedral
9-12	Halifax	St Vladimir's Mission, Annunciation Hermitage
10-	Alberta	Edmonton: St Barbara's Cathedral, St Herman's Sobor, St Nicholas Wostok-Bukovina

2006

January

1	Calgary	Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut's Church
5-7	Montréal	St-Benoît, Sts Peter & Paul Sobor
8	Ottawa	Annunciation Cathedral
15	Kingston	St Gregory of Nyssa
20	Syosset, NY	Lesser Synod
21-26	Edmonton	St Herman's, bishop's 60 th birthday commemoration
27	Montréal	Sign of the Theotokos, bishop's 60 th birthday commemoration
29	Ottawa	Annunciation Cathedral : Choral workshop w/ Fr Glagolev

February

2-7	Slovakia	Funeral of Metropolitan Nikolai
11-14	Syosset, NY	delayed departure for Brazil (70 cm snow)
15-24	Brazil	Porto Alegre, World Council of Churches' General Assembly
26	Ottawa	Annunciation Cathedral
28	Syosset, NY	Holy Synod

March

1	Syosset, NY	Holy Synod
2-9	BC Deanery	Victoria, Courtenay, Gibson's, Surrey
12	Ottawa	Annunciation Cathedral, Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
19	Montréal	Sign of the Theotokos
24	Ottawa	Annunciation Cathedral

March

- 25 Toronto Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
w/Metropolitan Sotirios
- 26 Toronto Christ the Saviour Sobor
- 27-28 Toronto Orthodox-Catholic Bishops' Dialogue
- 28 Toronto Canadian Council of Orthodox Bishops'
Annual Meeting

April

- 1 Montréal Université de Sherbrooke, Colloque, chez
l'Église orthodoxe grecque des archanges Michel et Gabriel
- Ottawa Raising of Incense, Praises of the Theotokos,
and Homily at St Mary's Coptic Church
- 2 Montréal Sts Peter & Paul's Sobor
- 6-11 Edmonton St Herman of Alaska's Sobor : Archdiocesan
Council**
- 16 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 23 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral - Pascha
- 29 Montréal, Québec : Sts Peter & Paul Sobor, Ordination
- 30 Montréal, Québec : St-Benoît

May

- 5-14 Manitoba Deanery : Holy Trinity Sobor ; St Nicholas, Narol
- 21 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 22-25 Syosset, New York : Holy Synod**
- 28 + Ukraine : Kiyv
- 31 Sumy

June

- 1 Romne
- 2 Rivne
- 3-4 Pochaiv Dormition Monastery
- 5-6 Chernovtsi
- 7 Kolomeya, Kosiw
- 8 Yaremcha, Orphanage, Sponsored School, Kosiw
- 9 Lviv
- 10 Chervonograd, & villages, Vigil in Lviv
- 11 Sulimiv : Pentecost, & villages
- 12 Lviv : Pochaiv Project ; to Ottawa
- 18 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 21-23 Washington, DC : SCOBA - RC Bishops' Dialogue
- 24-25 Hamilton, Ontario : All Saints of North America

July

- 2 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 6-18 Alberta Deanery : St Michael's, Sochava ; St Herman's Sobor ; Calgary, Clergy Synaxis ; Calgary, Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut
- 20 + Romania
- 21 Bucharest
- 22 Cernica, Pasarea
- 23 Krasna
- 24 Bistrita, Hoarta, Hurezu
- 25-26 Petru Voda & St Panteleimon
- 27 Putna Dormition Monastery
- 28 Putna Annunciation Monastery
- 30 Putna
- 31 Sochava, Slatina, Proboda, Dragomirna

August

- 1 Putna Hermitage
- 2 Salash Village : Prophet Elias ; to Ottawa
- 4-5 Rawdon, Québec : St Seraphim's 50th Anniversary
- 6 Labelle, Québec : St Sergius' Chapel, Transfiguration
- 12-15 Rives Junction, Michigan : Dormition Monastery
- 16 Toronto, Ontario
- 19 Montréal, Québec : Sts Peter & Paul Sobor
- 20 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 25-31 Saskatchewan Deanery : Saskatoon, Holy Resurrection Sobor - Installation ; Holy Trinity, Moose Jaw ; Yorkton, St Mark's ; Canora, Mission

September

- 1 Winnipeg, Manitoba : St Arseny's Institute Signing at U of Winnipeg
- 3 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 6-19 BC Deanery : Gibson's Landing, Holy Transfiguration ; Langley, St Nicholas' ; Langley, St Herman's ; Vancouver, St John's Mission ; Holy Resurrection Sobor ; St Nina's Mission ; Victoria, All Saints' Church
- 21 Syosset, New York : Lesser Synod
- 24 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 28-29 Toronto, Ontario : Clergy
- 30 Windsor, Ontario : St John the Divine

October

- 1 Toronto, Ontario : Christ the Saviour Sobor
- 3-6 Chicago, Illinois : SCOBA General Bishops' Conference
- 8 Ottawa, Ontario : Cathedral
- 13-14 Otego, New York : Myrrhbearers' Monastery Pilgrimage

October

- 15 Crestwood, New York : St Vladimir's Seminary, ordination
- 18 Syosset, New York : Chancery
- 19-21 Crestwood, New York : St Vladimir's Seminary
- 22 Sea Cliff, New York
- 23-26 Syosset, New York : Holy Synod**
- 26 + Stockholm, Sweden : Bilda Conference

November

- 2 Ottawa, Ontario
- 3-5 Montréal, Québec : Sts Peter & Paul Sobor, Archdiocesan Council
- 10-13 Halifax, NS: St Vladimir's Church ; Annunciation Hermitage (New Germany)
- 18-19 Montréal, QC: Sign of the Theotokos, Patronal Feast, Ordination of Deacon K A Mansour
- 21 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral, Port Arthur Icon
- 26 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral

December

- 3 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
- 9-10 Edmonton, AB: St Herman's Sobor, Archpriest Dennis Pihach 20th Anniversary
- 11 New York: SCOBA meeting (for Metropolitan Herman)
- 12-13 Syosset, NY: Joint Meeting of Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council
- 13-31 Alberta Deanery: St Herman's Sobor; St Barbara's Sobor; Holy Trinity, Smoky Lake; Holy Trinity, Edmonton; St Herman's Sobor; St Athanasius' Church, Sherwood Park; St Peter's Church, Calgary

2007

January

- 1 Windsor, ON: St John the Divine's Church, Ordination
- 5-7 Montréal, QC: St-Benoît, Sts Peter & Paul Sobor - Theophany, Nativity
- 8 Rawdon, QC: St-Séraphim
- 13-14 Ottawa, ON: Annunciation Cathedral
- 15 Toronto, ON: Meeting re: English Mission
- 20-21 Kingston, ON: St Gregory of Nyssa's Mission
- 21 Ottawa, ON: Service with Archbishop M Gervais
- 27- Las Vegas, NV: Diocese of the West Missions Regreat and Diocesan Assembly

February

- 1
- 3-5 Montréal, QC: Sign of the Theotokos
- 6 Brownsburg, QC: Panagia Monastery
- 8-19 BC Deanery: Holy Resurrection, Vancouver; Holy Transfiguration Hermitage, Gibson's; Holy Apostle Barnabas, Comox Valley; All Saints of Alaska and St Arseny, Victoria
- 24-25 Ottawa, ON: Annunciation Cathedral, St Elias' Cathedral

March

- 3-4 Montréal, QC: Sign - tonsure ; St-Benoît
- 9-11 Toronto, ON: Christ the Saviour Sobor
- 12 Fair Haven: Conference Call
- 15-18 Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary
- 19-22 Syosset, NY: Holy Synod
- 23 Little Falls, NJ
- 24-25 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
- 26-27 Toronto, ON: Orthodox-Catholic Bishops' Dialogue; Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops' Meeting
- 30- BC Deanery: Holy Resurrection Sobor, Deanery Meeting; Holy Transfiguration Hermitage, Gibson's Landing, Ordination ; St Herman of Alaska's Church, Langley, Ordination

April

- 2
- 2-5 Fair Haven
- 5-8 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral, Pascha
- 14-16 Montréal, QC: Sign ; Sts Peter & Paul Sobor
- 20-24 Saskatoon, SK: Holy Resurrection Sobor, Archdiocesan Council**
- 28 Montréal, QC: Sherbrooke University Colloquium
- 29 Montréal, QC: Sign of the Theotokos

May

- 5 Tweed, ON: Opening St Mary of Egypt's House of Refuge
- 6 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
- 11 Toronto, ON: Graduation of Greek Orthodox Academy/Seminary
- 12 Toronto, ON: Christ the Saviour Sobor, Vigil
- 13 Toronto, ON: St Nicholas of Myra's Mission ; St Seraphim's Church
- 16-21 Winnipeg, MB: Holy Trinity Sobor (Ascension) ; St Arseny's Institute ; Life-giving Spring Mission (Vespers) ; Holy Trinity Sobor (Sunday)
- 27 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
- 28 Ottawa, ON: Executive Conference Call

May

- 29- Finland: Helsinki/Lohja ; Joensuu ; New Valamo Monastery ; Lintula Monastery ; Joensuu (International Orthodox Musicians' Conference) ; Archbishop Leo ; Imatra (St Nicholas) ; Helsinki, Metropolitan Ambrosius, new Diocesan Cultural Centre

June

7

- 9-17 Alberta Deanery: St Herman of Alaska's Sobor ; St Nicholas, Desjarlais (90th Anniversary) ; St Herman's Sobor, Archbishop's 20th Anniversary ; St Herman's Sobor (30th Anniversary)
18 Saskatoon, SK: Holy Resurrection Sobor
19 Moose Jaw, SK: Holy Trinity Church
20 Watrous, SK
21 Yorkton, SK
22-23 Sifton, MB: Holy Resurrection Church, Pilgrimage
24 Yorkton, SK: St Mark's Church
30 Johnstown, ON: St Silouan

July

- 1 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
8 Hamilton: All Saints of North America's Church
11-12 Montréal, QC: Sts Peter & Paul's Sobor
14 Johnstown, ON: St Silouan
15 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
16-17 Ottawa, ON: Clergy Synaxis
18-20 Ottawa, ON: Archdiocesan Assembly
21 Johnstown, ON: St Silouan
22 Ottawa, ON: Cathedral
25-27 Washington, DC: Parish Conference

2. Pastoral Notes

2004

June

- 5 Bishop Seraphim ordained Richard René to the Holy Diaconate in St Herman's Church, Langley BC. He is assigned as Deacon to the parish of the Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut in Calgary, Alberta.

July

- 30 Bishop Seraphim ordained Monk Deacon Basile (Paradis) to the Holy Priesthood in St Silouan the Athonite's Chapel, Johnstown ON. He is assigned to the Monastic Community of St Silouan in Johnstown.
- 30 Priest Justin Hewlett was received from Metropolitan Herman into the Archdiocese of Canada. He is assigned as Second Priest at St Herman of Alaska's Church, Langley BC.

August

- 21 Archpriest John Scratch was tonsured a monk at the Cathedral of the Annunciation-St Nicholas in Ottawa, Ontario. He is now known as Igumen John (Scratch), a member of the Monastic Community of St Silouan the Athonite.

October

- 5 Priest Robert John Polson was released from his responsibilities, and from the Archdiocese of Canada, and transferred to the Omophor of Metropolitan Herman, for transfer.
- 15 Priest Anastasy (Stacey) Richter was released from his responsibility as Rector of Holy Trinity, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and as Rector of Holy Trinity, Kayville, Saskatchewan and its dependencies. He is transferred to the Omophor of Archbishop Job and the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest.
- 31 October 2004, Priest Waldemar Kuchta was released from his attachment to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan in Johnstown, Ontario, and appointed Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and of Holy Trinity, Kayville, Saskatchewan, and its dependencies .

December

- 1 Priest Daniel Guenther, instead of attached, is assigned Associate Priest (2nd Priest) at Holy Resurrection Sobor in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- 25 Hieromonk Philip (Speranza) was made Igumen of the Protection Hermitage in Edmonton, Alberta, and blessed to wear the Palitsa.

2005

January

- 9 At the Sign of the Theotokos Church in Montréal, QC, Protodeacon Robert Cyprian Hutcheon was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. He is assigned as Associate Priest (2nd Priest) at the Church of the Sign. In view of his long service in the diaconate, his protodiaconate, and his being the nominee for Auxiliary Bishop, he was immediately declared an Archpriest.

February

- 2 At St Vladimir 's Seminary in Crestwood NY, with the Blessing of Metropolitan Herman, Deacon Christopher Ignatius Rigden-Briscall was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. He was attached to Three Hierarchs' Chapel in Crestwood NY, and has the hope of serving in Canada.

August

- 1 Priest Eugeniusz Zdrojewski, on loan from the Polish Orthodox Church, is appointed Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Sobor, in Winnipeg, MB, for about 6 weks. He is also attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan the Athonite, in Johnstown, ON.
- 15 The Mission Station of St John the Theologian is blessed in Vancouver, BC, under the leadership of the Priest Justin Hewlett, who remains attached to St Herman of Alaska's Church in Langle, BC.

September

- 1 The Student and Faculty Chaplaincy of the Holy Cross, at UBC, was renewed, after 20 years, under the leadership of the Priest Christopher Rigden-Briscall, who remains attached to St Herman of Alaska's Church in Langley, BC.
- 15 Priest Alexander Shkalov was provisionally released from All Saints' Mission in Toronto, ON, and from the Archdiocese of Canada, and transferred to Bishop Tikhon, and the Diocese of the West.
- 15 Priest Eugeniusz Zdrojewski was released from his responsibilities at Holy Trinity Sobor, Winnipeg, MB, and, remaining attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan the Athonite in Johnstown, ON, was given the pastoral responsibility of All Saints' Mission in Toronto, ON.

October

- 15 Hieromonk Vladimir (Lysak) was recalled from the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in New Valamo, Finland, and from the Omophor of Archbishop Leo, and was attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan the Athonite, in Johnstown, ON.

November

- 10 The Deaneries of Saskatchewan and Manitoba were returned to their previous united state, under the Deanship of Priest Robert S Kennaugh.
- 10 Retaining his other duties, Archpriest Dennis Pihach was released from his duties as Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Edmonton, AB.
- 13 Alexei Vassiouchkine was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa, ON. He is attached to Christ the Saviour Sobor in Toronto, ON.
- 13 Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon was appointed Arch-dean of the Archdiocese of Canada.
- 19 Igumen Philip (Speranza) was appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Edmonton, AB.
- 21 The Missionary Society of St Innocent of Alaska was blessed for Canada in Toronto, ON.

December

- 31 A Mission Station in Cranbrook, BC, to be served from Calgary, was blessed.

2006

January

- 6 The Mission Station in Cranbrook, BC, is blessed to be named for St Aidan of Lindisfarne.
- 15 Igumen John (Scratch) fell asleep in the Lord. He was buried from Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa, Ontario, on 18 January, 2006.

February

- 10 The Mission Station in support of the UBC Chaplaincy, Vancouver, was blessed.
- 10 Priest Justin Hewlett was released as Second Priest at St Herman's Church, Langley, BC, and is instead Attached at the same Church.
- 10 The Mission Station of St John the Evangelist in Vancouver, BC, was re-named for St John of Shanghai.
- 10 Priest Christopher Rigden-Briscall was released from his attachment at St Herman's Church in Langley, BC, and was attached to Holy Resurrection Sobor in Vancouver, BC.
- 10 Priest Justin Hewlett was released from his duties as Assigned to St Herman of Alaska's Church in Langley, BC, and he is Attached to the same church.

March

- 23 Blessed the association of St Arseny's Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative, of the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

April

- 13 The Mission Station to support the UBC Chaplaincy in Vancouver, BC, was named for St Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia.
- 23 Effective Pascha, Deacon Kevin Miller was blessed to wear the Double Orar ; Hieromonks Roman (Bonnel) and Basile (Paradis), and Priest Justin Hewlett, were blessed to wear the Nabedrennik ; Priests John Hainsworth, Mark Korban, Geoffrey Korz, Alexis Nikkel, and Michael Schaplowsky were blessed to wear the Purple Skoufia.
- 29 Deacon Juan-Pablo Ruiz-Gomar was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at Sts Peter & Paul Sobor in Montréal, Québec, and attached to St Seraphim's Church in Rawdon, Québec, as Deanery Supply Priest.

May

- 14 Subdeacon Lasha Tchantouridze was ordained to the Holy Diaconate at St Nicholas' Church, Narol, Manitoba, and attached to the same Church.
- 24 The Holy Synod of Bishops bestowed the following awards: Deacon Wilhelm Friesen - Protodeacon ; Igumen Philip (Speranza) - Jewelled Cross ; Igumen David (Edwards), Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon, Archpriest Andrew Piasta, Archpriest Dennis Pihach - Palitsa ; Hieromonk Marc (Pierre), Hieromonk Simeon (Weare) - Igumen ; Preists Daniel Guenther, Robert Kennaugh, Andrew Piasta - Archpriest ; Priests James Griggs, Vasily Kolega, Rodion Luciuk - Gold Cross.
- 29 Subdeacon Nicholas Young was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Metropolitan Herman, at our request, and he was attached to Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto, Ontario.

June

- 1 At our request, in Romne, Ukraine, Priest Robert S Kennaugh was raised to be an Archpriest by Archbishop Mark of Sumy, Ukraine.
- 30 Archpriest Waldemar Kuchta was released from his responsibility as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan the Athonite in Johnstown, Ontario.

July

- 1 Priest Michael Schaplowsky was released from his attachment at St Herman of Alaska's Sobor in Edmonton, Alberta, and attached to St Athanasius' Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta.
- 13 At the Clergy Synaxis in Calgary, Alberta, Priest Daniel Guenther was raised to be an Archpriest.

August

- 15 Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon, remaining Archdiocesan Dean, is released from his responsibilities at the Sign of the Theotokos in Montréal, Québec, and he is assigned Rector of Holy Resurrection Sobor in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

August

- 15 Priest Daniel Guenther is released from his duties as Acting Rector of Holy Resurrection Sobor in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and he remains in the same Church as Second Priest.

September

- 1 The Mission of All Saints of North America in Hamilton, Ontario, was named a Church. Priest Geoffrey Korz is Rector.
- 1 Priest James S Griggs was released from his responsibilities as Rector of St Gregory of Nyssa's Mission in Kingston, Ontario, and he was attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan in Johnstown, Ontario, as Deanery Supply Priest.
- 1 Priest-monk Luke (Majoros) was, in addition to his attachment at the Bishop's Chapel, appointed Priest-in-Charge of St Gregory of Nyssa's Church in Kingston, Ontario.
- 15 Archpriest Teimoraz Suarashvili was suspended from priestly function.

October

- 1 Deacon Nicholas Young was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at Christ the Saviour Sobor in Toronto, Ontario, and attached to the Sobor.
- 1 The Mission of St Seraphim of Sarov in Toronto, Ontario was named a Church. Igumen Nestor (Mikhailechko) is Rector.
- 1 The name of the Mission Station of All Saints was changed to the Mission Station of St Innocent of Alaska.
- 1 Mar Elias Church in New Westminster, BC, was declared dormant.
- 1 Priest Johanna Ayoub was released from his responsibilities as Rector of Mar Elias' Church, and was attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St Silouan the Athonite in Johnstown, Ontario.
- 10 Priest Eugeniusz Zdrojewski was suspended from priestly function.

November

- 12 The Mission Station of St Nicholas of Myra was blessed in Toronto, Ontario, with Priest Nicholas Young as Priest-in-charge.
- 19 At the Divine Liturgy at the Sign of the Theotokos' Church in Montréal, Québec, Subdeacon K Anthony Mansour was ordained to the Holy Diaconate, and attached to the Church of the Sign of the Theotokos.
- 29 The Mission Station of All Saints of North America in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was re-opened.
- 29 Priest Andrew Jarmus was received through Metropolitan Herman from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, and assigned as Priest in Charge of the Mission Station of All Saints of North America in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

December

- 6 Deacon Constantine Katsilas was received from Archbishop Nathaniel, and the Romanian Episcopate, and assigned to the Church of St John the Divine, in Windsor, Ontario.

2007

January

- 1 Deacon Constantine Katsilas was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, and assigned as Priest-in-charge of St John the Divine's Church, Windsor, Ontario
In addition to his other duties, Hieromonk Luke (Majoros) is assigned as Priest-in-charge of St Gregory of Nyssa's Mission in Kingston, Ontario.
- 10 Priest Walter (Vladimir) Smith was received from Bishop Tikhon of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, and assigned Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Church, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
- 16 Archpriest Waldemar Kuchta was given the blessing provisionally to serve in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, at the request of Metropolitan JOHN of Winnipeg.

March

- 1 The Mission of the Holy Apostle Barnabas in Comox, BC, is now to be known as the Mission of the Holy Apostle Barnabas in the Comox Valley, BC.
- 3 At the Sign of the Theotokos Church, Rasophore Nun Stephanie (Stephanida) was tonsured to the Lesser Schema with the name Stephania, and becoming a Member of the Monastic Community of St Silouan of Mt Athos, in Johnstown, Ontario, while remaining at the Sign of the Theotokos Church in Montréal, Québec.
- 31 At the Chapel of the Entrance of the Theotokos in Holy Transfiguration Hermitage in Gibson's Landing, BC, Schema-monk-subdeacon Samuel (Panchuk) was ordained to the Holy Diaconate, and assigned as deacon to this Hermitage.

April

- 1 At St Herman of Alaska's Church, Langley, BC, Subdeacon Kurt Edward Jordan was ordained to the Holy Diaconate, and assigned to St Herman's Church, as deacon.
Priest Ronald Poworoznik, of the Mission of St Athanasius in Sherwood Park, Alberta, is named Rector of this mission.
- 8 **Diocesan Paschal Awards:**
Nabedrenik: Priests John Bingham, Richard René, Christopher Rigden-Briscall, Walter Smith
Kamilavka: Priest John Hainsworth
Double Orar: Deacons Gregory Kopchuk, Vincent Lehr
- Holy Synod Spring Session Awards:**
Igumen (*non-ruling*): Hieromonks Daniel (Baeyens), Simeon (Weare)
Archpriest: Priests Andrew Jarmus, James McLuckie, Andrey Somow
Palitza: Archpriests Michael Fourik, Anatoly Melnik, Lawrence Reinheimer

May

28 Blessed the establishment of a Domestic Chapel at the home of Nil and Sheilagh Nellis near Kaslo, BC.

Since the last Assembly, we saw the repose of Igumen John (Scratch), Archpriest Basil Butchko, Archpriest Svetislav Balevich, Deacon Alexander Sulakov, as well as Matushka Natalia Boldireff, Nun Dorofea (Mirochnitchenko), Oleg Wilson, and Stephen Derhak, among well-known persons.