

**Agreement Signed for Affiliation between St. Arseny Institute and  
The Faculty of Theology, University of Winnipeg  
August 31, 2006**



On Thursday, August 31, 2006, His Grace Bishop Seraphim (Archdiocese of Canada, OCA) and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President of the University of Winnipeg signed an agreement for affiliation of the St. Arseny Institute with the Faculty of Theology at the University.

Also signing the document were Rev. Dr. James Christie, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Mr. Spencer Estabrooks, Director of the St. Arseny Institute.

About forty people were present to witness the ceremony, which included brief speeches, the signing, and an informal reception. These people included the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, members of the faculty and staff from institutions, benefactors and supporters, a number of Orthodox clergy and laity, and representatives from member groups of the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative. The WTC includes other denominations co-operating in the Master of Divinity program with the Faculty of Theology.



Beginning in January, 2007, some of the twenty core courses of St. Arseny Institute will begin to be offered through the Faculty of Theology, University of Winnipeg, with credit toward B.Th. and M. Div. degrees. St. Arseny Institute students, who qualify, will eventually be able to take the roughly two-year

program of courses in Orthodox theology available from the Institute through the Faculty of Theology for credit toward a degree in theology. A third, residential year of studies in Orthodox theology is being worked on within the Archdiocese of Canada, to make it possible for students to complete the full post-graduate Master of Divinity degree and to meet academic requirements for the priesthood in Canada. With completion of the third year of studies at an accredited institution in Canada, students would be awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Winnipeg.



The Faculty of Theology at the University of Winnipeg has recently received membership in the Association of Theological Schools, the major accrediting body for the degree of Master of Divinity in North America.

For further reports on this major event for Orthodox theological education in Canada, please see the posting on the University of Winnipeg website and the upcoming issue of *The Orthodox Church* which is produced in hard copy, but also available on-line at [www.o.ca.org](http://www.o.ca.org) under "Documents and Publications".

As the many practical details of this agreement are worked out over the next two to three months, toward the first courses being offered in January, 2007 for Master of Divinity degree credit, the St. Arseny Institute website at [www.saintarseny.ca](http://www.saintarseny.ca) will be updated to reflect the new possibilities, changes and procedures. With recent changes to the design of the St. Arseny Institute website and a new volunteer, Brigitte Everhardus, taking on this task, other exciting developments which are in the works will be posted regularly on the website.

The Administration and Faculty of the St. Arseny Institute ask for your prayers and patience as they work through the many tasks required to implement this agreement over the coming months and as they deal with many inquiries about it, since most of our staff are volunteering their time and labours.