

## ST. ARSENY OTHODOX CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE REPORT FOR THE 2013 ASSEMBLY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA, OCA

- ◆ **The 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the SAI** *takes place this year.*
- ◆ **The Original Purpose of the SAI Continues:** *To provide affordable, accessible Orthodox theological education, by means suitable to the circumstances and needs of those in the Archdiocese and beyond, who would like to prepare themselves for service in the Church, or simply to understand better their faith.*
- ◆ **There is No Cost to the Archdiocese** *The administration of the Institute and the offering of its programs have been carried out in the black financially from the beginning, and it receives no financial support from the Archdiocese.*
- ◆ **Faithful Commitment to the Vision of Meeting a Need to Provide Training for Those Desiring to Serve the Church in Canada** *Nearly all of those who began the Institute have continued in administrative and/or teaching roles to the present time, working together in harmony, as well as making major contributions to the various programs of the Institute, because they are committed to the belief that the Archdiocese must provide what is lacking or not accessible financially or otherwise, in order to nurture the life of the Church in Canada.*
- ◆ **The Administrative and Teaching Staff** *all have other jobs, some full-time. The administrative staff receive only small honoraria from the Institute (in some cases the honoraria are returned). The teachers, usually deal with each student separately and receive 85% of the \$250.00 fee for a course. The Institute is funded by donations. Teaching is done mostly by correspondence, sometimes locally, which case more than one student may be taught at a time. Qualified teachers are needed, who appreciate the vision for which the Institute was established, and are willing to contribute time and effort for this ministry with minimal compensation. All faculty need to be approved by the Bishop.*
- ◆ **A Small Bursary/Scholarship Fund** *has been established for students who need support in studying toward official service in the Church. The fund is not self-sustaining and donations are sought out periodically. Donations to the fund directly, or suggestions of potential sponsors for the fund are welcome.*
- ◆ **The Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity**, *an on-line academic journal, with a general focus on the Orthodox Church in Canada, has been published by the SAI three times a year since 2006. It may be found at*

[www.cjoc.ca](http://www.cjoc.ca). A number of Archdiocesan clergy and SAI students and also well-known Orthodox and non-Orthodox writers have contributed articles over the years. The journal has many items regarding St. Arseny, including a few of his writings, his Life, hymns for services dedicated to him, etc. We encourage those in the Archdiocese and beyond to consider the journal their own and to make it a major contributor to Orthodox life in Canada, a resource for many, and an exchange of gifts which we have in the Canadian Orthodox world. We welcome the submission of articles, and letting others know of its existence. Server space is donated and expertise for posting materials is donated, while a small honorarium is provided for the major task of editing and administering the Journal.

- ◆ **The SAI Library** consists of about 1000 quality Orthodox and other related items, which, by a continuing agreement with the University of Winnipeg Library, may be added to, with the cataloguing, care and circulation of the books being done by the University Library at no expense to the St. Arseny Institute. There is no one assigned at this time to work further on the Library. Help would be welcomed.
  
- ◆ **Programs of the Institute Include:**
  - 20 courses in such areas as liturgics/liturgical theology, church history, doctrine, homiletics, pastoral theology, Holy Scripture, canon law, Christian education, ethics and spirituality, etc.
  - a 2-part training program for readers
  - both programs are open to laity
  - at the request of His Grace, Bishop Irene we are preparing suggestions for ways the Archdiocese might best fulfill in our circumstances in the Archdiocese the new requirement of the Holy Synod for educational upgrading for clergy
  
- ◆ **A NEW PROJECT FOR DELIVERY OF COURSES ON-LINE**, both for the current programs and for a greater variety of courses related to specific topics within Orthodox Christianity, is moving forward steadily.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE MATERIALS PROVIDED AT THE SAI TABLE AT THE ASSEMBLY, ATTEND THE WEDNESDAY EVENING 10th ANNIVERSARY EVENT FOR THE SAI AT THE ASSEMBLY, AND TALK TO SAI REPRESENTATIVES AT THE ASSEMBLY (check for updates on our website - [www.saintarseny.ca](http://www.saintarseny.ca))

Submitted by Priest Anthony Estabrooks, Director of St. Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute