

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: On Sunday, June 11, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon processed with clergy and faithful from All Saints of America to **bless motorcycles** from the Salisbury, Conn., area.



On Behalf of All of Us

V. Rev. Steven Belonick

The following is a homily delivered on the Feast of All Saints of North America, at All Saints of America Church, Salisbury, Conn.

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

On behalf of all us, Fr John, let me thank you for your invitation to celebrate your parish’s patronal feast of All Saints of America. As you well know, it is the practice of most

deaneries to gather only during the Lenten season, but after Pascha, we hardly see each other. But you have made it possible for us to do so.

The value of “gathering” together is as important in our day as it has ever been. We live in precarious times. It was St Anthony the Great who wrote in the fourth century: “A time is coming when men will go mad and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him saying: you

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Right: Archbishop Nikon prays over the motorcycles to be blessed.



are mad, you are not like us.” How important for us to remain together.

We remember the high-priestly prayer of our Lord in which He asked His Father to keep His little flock safe. St Ignatius of Antioch, in the early church, encouraged his flock by letter to “try to gather more frequently to praise God. For when you meet with frequency, Satan’s powers are overthrown and his destructiveness is undone.” And Fr Schmemmann of blessed memory taught us about what he called the “sacrament of the assembly” – by which he meant the transformation that can take place when a group of people become the little flock of Christ, devoted to Him, and in service to His Father, when they gather in His Name.

All of this comes to mind and is actualized as we assemble here today. But we have assembled with a very special and specific purpose, and that is to celebrate All the Saints of America; and I would expand that to mean not only those canonized, but those known only to God. For both have worked in a holy union to bring our little church to

this point in its history. So, in our gathering today, we have formed a synaxis of those who are here and the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Let me mention some of them.

When St Tikhon was assigned to America, he served for a very short period of time – just eight years. But during that time, he showed himself to be a visionary. After coming to know his diverse flock, he established a vision of one Church in United States where peoples of all ethnic backgrounds could find a home and where their diversity was recognized and celebrated.

He established churches; strategically transferred the diocesan center from San Francisco to New York City; built the monastery and orphanage in South Canaan, Penn.; developed vital links with ecumenical leaders; had liturgical books translated into English for the purpose of evangelism. He consecrated Fr Raphael Hawaweeny to the episcopacy to care for the growing number of Orthodox faithful from Lebanon and Syria. Bishop Raphael in turn would establish thirty parishes,

which were the precursor of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese.

Our church is not without its martyrs. We remember the youth, Peter the Aleut; St Juvenaly who was numbered among the first group of missionaries to land on Kodiak Island. He was murdered by a hunting party, having baptized scores of natives.

We remember St John Kocharov who pastored the cathedral in Chicago for twelve years, and in returning to Russia was murdered by the Bolsheviks. St Alexander Hotovitsky, who served under the direction of St Tikhon, was the first editor of the *American Orthodox Messenger*, our church's public relations venue; helped build the cathedral in New York City, which was completed in 1903; he helped establish Orthodox Mutual Aid societies to help new immigrants adjust and adapt to life in America; and in returning to Russia died in a concentration camp in 1937.

Our Church was blessed with the intellect of St Nicolai of South Canaan whose writings and commentaries on

them. He was willing to warn us when it was necessary. He wrote: "As Orthodox Christians we must carefully examine every aspect of our involvement in the world, its activities, holidays and festivals, to be certain whether or not these involvements are compatible with our Holy Orthodox Faith."

Who can forget St Alexis Toth and the impact he had in bringing back to their Orthodox roots over 30,000 Uniates?

We remember St Vasily Martysz who left his native home in Poland to serve here in America and even in our sister parish in Waterbury, CT for a short time. Upon his return to Poland, intruders entered his humble home and beat him for four hours. Neither his secular position as a colonel in the Polish army nor his service as a priest dissuaded his enemies. He died in 1945.

And what can we say of St John Maximovitch of San Francisco. Although he was small in stature, he was a giant in the spiritual life. There are those living today who remember his powerful presence when he entered a

Right: Fr. Steven Belonick of Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, preaches at the Akathist Service to All Saints of America. The Salisbury church has the largest assembly of **relics of American saints.**





Right: Clergy from across the diocese gathered to celebrate the Akathist to All Saints of America.

room. They remember his holy simplicity. He was a true ascetic, often acting like a fool-for-Christ. He gave himself over to the care and support of charitable institutions and orphanages.

And of course, any list of American saints would be depleted without the names of Herman and Innocent. These two heroic figures set the example for all those after them. They expressed humble service and untiring labor to bring the message of salvation to those who had never heard it.

But today, I am also reminded of the millions of “unknown saints” of our church. They will never have an icon painted of them; no akathist services will be written in their memory. But they too acted with conviction, courage, and dedication. There were those who were willing to mortgage their homes so that a church could be built. Among them were women who worked making their ethnic foods in order to keep the church doors open. They include those who served in positions of leadership on a parish, diocesan, and central church level. May their memory be eternal.

So, here we are—a holy synaxis, a holy assembly, God’s little flock; surrounded by heroes and heroines, by those

canonized, and by those yet to be canonized. I hope my brief description of our saints is a reminder that there are no “plaster saints.” Each had different gifts and talents; each had their idiosyncrasies; each had their faults and sins. But they were led by the same Spirit, who brought incredible fruit to their efforts.

Let me finish with farewell words from St Tikhon who had been called back to Russia in 1907. His words were preached as a sermon that he gave at the opening the First All-American Sobor held in February 1907 in Mayfield, Penn.; and from a sermon he preached at the New York City Cathedral on the Sunday of Orthodoxy of that year — his last sermon in America.

“You know that I am leaving you, and I am seeing many of you for the last time. And thus at my departure from you, the present prayer of mine to the Heavenly Father is that He preserve you in the right Faith and save you from the hostility of enemies. How could we not worry for the small flock of ours? How easily can the wind blow out a candle lit in an open room! How easily can the waves of the sea drown the sailor in a

fragile vessel!

“We cannot boast either of our numerousness, or fame, or wealth, or erudition—all that is valuable in the eyes of this world. We are strong here only with the true, right Faith; and even that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, of which an increase in us we should be asking the Lord. And when you have departed from here and have returned to your [parishes], do in turn strengthen your fellow brethren in faith and love for Holy Orthodoxy. Whatsoever you have learned here that is true, honest, and just, and seen that is of good report, THAT you should do yourselves and tell other about it. We must share our spiritual richness, truth, light, and joy with others who do not have these blessings.

“And this duty does not only lay upon the pastors and the missionaries but on the laypersons as well, since the Church of Christ... is the body and every member takes part in the life of the body. The light of the Orthodox Faith

has not been lit to shine only for a small circle of people. No, the Orthodox Church is catholic. Stand firm in spite of the fact that we live in a non-Orthodox country, and not pleading as an excuse for our apostasy that ‘it is not the old land here but America, a free country, and therefore it is impossible to follow everything that the Church requires.’ As if the word of Christ is only suitable for the old land and not for the entire world. As if the church of Christ is not ‘catholic.’ As if the Orthodox Faith did not ‘establish the universe.’

“Manifest yourselves before the non-Orthodox as the Orthodox people. May the Lord strengthen you to excel. This is my prayer for you.”

I believe, and I hope you do as well, that St Tikhon’s words defined the hearts of all the North American Saints. May his words permeate our hearts as well. Amen.

ONE +

Right: The faithful venerate the **relics of eight American saints.**



New Altar Consecrated in Salem, Mass.



Top: Archbishop Nikon seals one corner of the altar.

Middle: A side table held all the sacred utensils and ingredients used in the rite.

Bottom: The altar before the consecration.

Photos: John Barone

His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon presided at the consecration of a new altar for St. Nicholas Church, Salem. Clergy from across the diocese joined in the work, which involves sealing relics into the altar with a special wax-mastic.

Since the Orthodox Church in America has run out of wax-mastic, Fr. John Hopko researched the recipe used on Mt. Athos, which uses pure beeswax and particular incense, melted and formed into discs. Fr. Hopko also provided guidance on the exact rubrics to be followed on the day.

The same rite will be called for this fall, when the new altar for Holy Trinity, Willimantic, is consecrated.



Fr. Nicholas Timpko to receive miter

On Sunday, July 23, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon will award Archpriest Nicholas Timpko the miter, a distinctive honor for very senior priests. Normally worn only by bishops, the miter has been awarded by certain Orthodox Churches to a select number of archpriests.

In the Orthodox Church in America, the award has not been used for decades until this year, when it was reinstated, with a strict limit of one per diocese per year.

Archbishop Nikon chose to honor Fr. Timpko, who continues to inspire the Diocese of New England with his zeal and dedicated service, even in retirement.

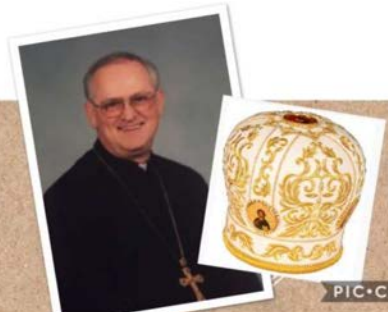
The award will be made during Vespers at 4:00 on Sunday afternoon at Three Saints Church, Ansonia, Conn. **ONE +**

Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend the Awarding of the Mitre by the Most Reverend Nikon, Archbishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese to the Very Rev. Archpriest Nicholas Timpko, Pastor Emeritus of Three Saints Orthodox Church.

Sunday, July 23, 2017
4:00 p.m. Vespers Service
Three Saints Orthodox Church
26 Howard Ave, Ansonia, CT 06401
Celebration Dinner and fellowship following in the Church Auditorium

Clergy hoping to serve are asked to bring Gold Vestments (Please RSVP to Nina Kosowsky at [203-924-0936](tel:203-924-0936) or at threesaints@att.net by July 14th)



PIC•COLLAGE

ONE Stewards Summer 2017 Appeal

As of early May, the 2017 ONE Stewards donations totaled over \$17,000 and our budget for 2017 is \$22,000. Our ONE Stewards donations support our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminarians, our diocesan Missions, our OCA Seminaries, and our diocesan Charity donations. The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is scheduled again for August. ONE Stewards donations are critical in supporting the upcoming Youth Rally and all the diocesan activities mentioned. Show your support by "Giving Above and Beyond" with a 2017 summer donation to ONE Stewards so that we reach and even

exceed our budgeted goal. A ONE Stewards envelope is included in this issue of the Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

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ONE +

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Upcoming Events

Aug 15	Deadline for the next issue of the ONE
July 23	Awarding of the Miter to Fr. Nicholas Timpko—Three Saints, Ansonia, Conn.
Aug. 7-12	Diocesan Youth Rally
Sept. 30	Consecration of the Altar of Holy Trinity, Willimantic, Conn.
Oct. 1	FORCC Benefit Dinner—Guest Speaker Fr. Chad Hatfield, President of SVOTS
Oct. 27-28	Diocesan Assembly at St. Jacob of Alaska, Northfield Falls, Vermont