



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

August 1, 2013
The Procession of the Cross; the Maccabæan Martyrs
No. 51

To All Rectors and Priests-in-Charge in the Diocese of the Midwest

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Alexander, *Locum Tenens* of the Diocese of the Midwest, the members of our Diocesan Council have agreed to ask all parishes of the Diocese of the Midwest to collect funds to assist our diocesan seminarians during the month of August 2013 — “Support Our Seminarians Month.”

Allow me, for a moment, to paint a picture of the plight of our seminarians.

The typical seminarian is in his or her late 20s or early 30s, married, with young children. He or she has abandoned a promising career and has asked his or her spouse to do the same in order to respond to Our Lord’s call. They have bid their kinsfolk and friends adieu, and moved their family and belongings to Saint Vladimir’s Seminary in New York or Saint Tikhon’s Seminary in Pennsylvania.

The seminarian is responsible to participate in morning and evening services. The seminarian is responsible to attend classes during the day and to study at night. And the seminarian is responsible for daily work responsibilities at the seminary — such as food preparation and cleaning in the refectory.

The burden of making ends meet and of taking care of the children therefore falls on the spouse. Perhaps they will take out loans to help pay tuition and living expenses, and so leave school with a mountain of debt, as might any student graduating from a secular institution. However, unlike many students graduating from secular institutions, the graduating seminarian does not have a lucrative career to which to look forward when he or she returns to the Diocese of the Midwest, but rather a life of mission work, often combined with side-jobs.

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As a Church, how can we act together to assist those from our beloved Diocese who have sacrificed so much to devote their lives to serving the People of God? It would be a worthy gesture indeed, if we as a Diocese could commit to financially supporting our diocesan seminarians 100%! Unfortunately, we are not quite “there” yet.

Currently, the diocesan budget allocates \$20,000.00 to the Archbishop Job Memorial Seminarian Grant Fund, which is divided amongst the seminarians. With about ten seminarians expected, that comes to \$1,000.00 per seminarian, per semester. I think it goes without saying that, for a seminarian with a spouse and one or two children, this sum does not even begin to cover a month’s rent, groceries, utilities, insurance, and other necessities — much less the actual cost of a seminary education!

Therefore, let us strive to double that amount through our special efforts this month! Parishes may raise funds through whatever means they deem appropriate. Perhaps a collection basket on Sunday, August 25, or on every Sunday during the month of August.

Please distribute the enclosed flyers. Announce our effort from the ambo. Include some or all of the information in your parish bulletin. Hold a bake sale, a pledge drive, or whatever fundraisers that are especially effective in your particular community. Whatever the means, the resulting gift will be received gratefully by our seminarians.

Every semester, we receive many ecstatic letters from them, praising God and thanking the Diocese — you! — for the timely and “life saving” assistance. This year, may we “outdo” ourselves in showing our support for those who are destined to guide our beloved Diocese for many, many years to come!

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. John Zdinak". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Archpriest John Zdinak
Chancellor



Before His Ascension, Our Lord commissioned His disciples to “teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS!

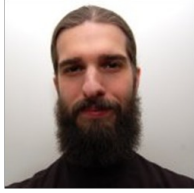
■ While all of God’s People are called to proclaim the Good News to those who would receive it, our clergy have been given the special task of “equipping the saints for ministry” by planting the seeds of faith and nurturing spiritual growth. ■ For three quarters of a century, our seminaries have devoted themselves not only to imparting *information* about our faith, but to pursuing the *formation* of those called to the ordained ministry. ■ Our diocesan seminarians have chosen a truly difficult and selfless path, especially in terms of funding their studies and living expenses. ■ In prayerful remembrance of **Archbishop Job** of Chicago, **August 2013** has been designated “**Support Our Seminarians Month**” in the Diocese of the Midwest, culminating in “**SOS Sunday**” on **August 25**. Please be generous as we join together to help lighten our seminarians’ financial burdens. ■ **All funds will be given directly to our seminarians!**



AUGUST 25 IS SOS SUNDAY!

Please send your donations to the
Diocese of the Midwest
927 North LaSalle Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60610

MEET YOUR SEMINARIANS / *Diocese of the Midwest*



Joel Brady, Holy Assumption Church, Canton, OH—When Joel was 8, he and his parents were received into the Orthodox Church. A mission trip he took with OCMC to Albania greatly inspired him to find ways of serving the church. He became involved in his parish's outreach to fellow college students, did some work in the mental health field, but became increasingly convinced that his real calling was in service to the Church.

Matthew Brown, Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Albion MI—Matthew was raised Methodist. He planned to become a Methodist minister, but converted to the Orthodox faith while a college senior. He was tonsured a Reader in 2008, served on his parish council while also overseeing the altar servers. He helped lead an OCF, and directed the church school with his wife Elizabeth.



Robert Gauvain, St. Herman's, Minneapolis, MN—Robert grew up on a homestead in Alaska, was married in the Byzantine Catholic Church, and was received into the Orthodox Church with his wife, Elizabeth. Attending seminary was a desire Robert first expressed as a young boy. He works part-time with computers while pursuing his studies.

Reader Moses Hibbard, St. Matthew Orthodox Church, Green Bay, WI—Reader Moses was raised in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and attended Concordia University with the thought of becoming a Lutheran pastor. He became uncomfortable, however, with certain aspects of the Lutheran faith, and left Concordia. Shortly afterward, he and his wife Karmin converted to Orthodoxy.



Reader Alexander Koranda, St. Peter & St. Paul, Burr Ridge IL—Reader Alex was baptized into the Orthodox faith as an infant at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Chicago, where his family helped found and build the parish. Alexander started serving in the altar when he was six years old, and continued to be active in the church throughout his youth. He became a Sub-Deacon when he was 13, and started serving with Archbishop JOB in the Chicago Deanery. He graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Corporate Communication and a minor in philosophy.

Sandro Margheritino, St Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church, Columbus, OH—Sandro was born in Palermo, Italy, and earned a BA in International Relations-Political Science from the University of Palermo. He was raised Roman Catholic, and was introduced to Orthodoxy by a family friend. After a few years of reading, attending services and praying, he was chrismated Orthodox just before turning 18.



Michael P. Skor, Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH—Michael was baptized into the Orthodox faith as an infant. Under the guidance of his spiritual father, he began to sense Christ's call to serve His Church. As a teenager, Michael helped to revitalize the parish's youth ministry. He earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Classics from Duquesne University, and a master's degree in Classical Language from Boston University.



Deacon Marty Watt, St. Paul the Apostle, Dayton, OH—Deacon Marty was born of Methodist and Baptist upbringing. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, and spent nearly 25 years working primarily in healthcare facilities, and 12 years as a financial and administrative executive in the health-care field. He and his family were received into the Orthodox faith in 1995, and was ordained to the Diaconate in 2008.