

9/11 victims prayerfully remembered at Moscow's Representation Church of St. Catherine

Following the Divine Liturgy marking the feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, celebrated on September 11, 2018, Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, Dean of the Orthodox Church in America's [Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine](#), Moscow, Russia, offered memorial prayers for the thousands of innocent victims who lost their lives in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Among those who attended the services were the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation, John Huntsman and his wife; the Apostolic Nuncio in Russia, Archbishop Celestino Migliore; the Rev. Michael Raine, who ministers to the Roman Catholic community at the US Embassy; and representatives of Canada.

After welcoming his guests, Father Daniel read a message from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

"Once again we have gathered in community, here at the Representation Church of the Orthodox Church in America, to offer our prayers for all who perished on that awful Tuesday, September 11, seventeen years ago today," Metropolitan Tikhon's message read. "Among them were men and women representing different religions, races, and nations, yet sharing a common humanity, and therefore reflecting the image and likeness of God. May the memories of those who lost their lives on that day at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and on Flight 93, be eternal, and may we also remember in our prayers all those who, as a result of the actions on that day, and in defense of country against barbarous terrorists, have sacrificed their lives. We also offer our prayers for the loved ones and friends whose lives were forever changed on that tragic day.

"There is no place in our modern world that is safe from the evils of terrorism and the actions of deranged people whose hearts lack the love of our Lord Jesus Christ," Metropolitan Tikhon continued. "As Orthodox Christians we confess and witness a Christ Whose love has released us from the bondage of death—'Christ is risen and death reigns no more' as our hymns remind us. As Orthodox Christians, we know that we are called to actively bring the love, goodness, and healing of Christ to a fallen world. May He strengthen all of us for this sacred task.

"Having recently commemorated the 14th Anniversary of the murder of innocent children and adults on the opening day of school in Beslan, we are reminded that Russians and Americans share in a common experience of tragedy, terrorism and pain," Metropolitan Tikhon added. "But as

Orthodox Christians we know that we are also bound in a deeper way by the life-saving power of the Cross and resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, and through Him we enjoy a bond of faith, brotherhood and unity unlike any other.

"We are thankful to be joined in our prayer by the Papal Nuncio, His Eminence, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, as well as the Ambassador of the United States, Mr. John Huntsman, and representatives of the Canadian Embassy. Please know that the doors of Saint Catherine's are always open to you and those under your care here in Moscow," Metropolitan Tikhon concluded. "May the Lord remember all those departed this life in His Kingdom, may He grant them eternal rest, and may He continue to bestow His peace and comfort on their families and loved ones."

In response, Ambassador Huntsman stressed that the tragedy that occurred 17 years ago shocked the whole world. He especially recalled that Russia's leaders were among the first to express condolences to the people of America as the tragedy unfolded. He went on to recall how thousands of people at that time brought flowers and other mementos to the US Embassy in Moscow. In conclusion, he emphasized that the tragic events of 2001 and in the years that followed continue to serve as a call to strengthen the unity of the world community in the fight against the threat of terrorism.

After ringing the bell in the memorial tower at Saint Catherine's, erected in memory of the 9/11 attacks, a minute of silence was observed.

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19th AAC Highlights: Metropolitan Tikhon meets with Bishop Flavian

Throughout the course of the [19th All-American Council](#) [AAC] of the Orthodox Church in America, held in Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, met with representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches that had accepted his invitation to attend the proceedings.

Representing His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill and the Moscow Patriarchate was [His Grace, Bishop Flavian of Cherepovets and Belozersk](#).

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Bishop Flavian and asked him to convey his gratitude and greetings to His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill. After conveying the warm greetings of Patriarch Kirill to Metropolitan Tikhon and all participants in the AAC, Bishop Flavian spoke about his diocese and its current ministries. Established just three and a half years ago, the diocese embraces over 100 parishes served by 67 priests. It also maintains two monasteries, while a third monastic community is in the process of being planted.

The presence of Bishop Flavian at the 19th AAC follows the successful participation of a delegation from the Orthodox Church in America in a Summer Institute sponsored by the Moscow Patriarchate and the Saints Cyrill and Methodius Institute of Post-Graduate Studies earlier this summer. The Institute was the fruit of discussions between Patriarch Kirill and Metropolitan Tikhon during the latter's visits to Moscow in 2016 and 2017, at which time ways to acquaint clergy from both Churches with the life of the Church in Russia and the Church in America were discussed. The OCA delegation was led by Bishop Daniel and Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA.

Clergy participants represented several OCA dioceses. The delegation's busy agenda included meeting with and celebrating the Divine Liturgy with His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk; attendance at a variety of lectures and presentations by Church and secular experts; and visits to the Synodal Catechesis Department, the Synodal Department of Church-Society Relations, and the Synodal Department for Charity and Social Service. They also visited numerous churches, monasteries and shrines across the Moscow region, including the OCA's Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine. Among the theological institutions they visited were the Moscow Theological Academy at the Holy Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra, Sergiev-Posad; the Sretensky Theological Seminary; and the Saint Tikhon Orthodox University of Humanities.

Also taking part in the meeting on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America were His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, personal secretary to the Metropolitan Tikhon.

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By way of background, Metropolitan Tikhon had issued invitations to the Primate of all Local Orthodox Churches to send representatives to the AAC. While some Churches were unable to send representatives, others—including the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Russia and Serbia and the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia—were able to do so. The Autonomous Orthodox Church of Finland also was represented.

Metropolitan Tikhon met individually with those representatives who were in attendance.

Representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople was [His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael](#) of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

During their meeting, Metropolitan Tikhon asked Metropolitan Nathanael to convey his gratitude to His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, for accepting his invitation. In their discussion, Metropolitan Tikhon shared with Metropolitan Nathanael the history and current work of the All-American Councils. In turn, Metropolitan Nathanael, who was recently elected to the Chicago Metropolis, conveyed the greetings of His All-Holiness and spoke of the ministry he is undertaking in the Chicago Metropolis, as well as the current work of the Secretariat of the [Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America](#). Prior to his election as Metropolitan of Chicago, Metropolitan Nathanael served as the Director of Inter-Church Relations for the [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](#).

Metropolitan Nathanael also offered formal greetings on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at one of the AAC's plenary sessions.

Also taking part in the meeting were His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, Personal Secretary to the Metropolitan Tikhon.

Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised

Commemorated on [September 16](#)

The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia the All-Praised was the daughter of Christians, the senator Philophronos and Theodosia. She suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the banks of the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople.

The Chalcedon governor Priscus circulated an order to all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and its surroundings to appear at a pagan festival to worship and offer sacrifice to an idol of Ares, threatening grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they secretly attended services to the True God.

The young maiden Euphemia was also among those praying there. Soon the hiding place of the Christians was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer for themselves. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various tortures and torments, but none of them wavered in their faith nor consented to offer sacrifice to the idol. The governor, beside himself with rage and not knowing any other way of forcing the Christians to abandon their faith, sent them for trial to the emperor Diocletian. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not remain strong if she were all alone.

Saint Euphemia, separated from her brethren in faith, fervently prayed the Lord Jesus Christ, that He strengthen her in her impending ordeal. Priscus at first urged the saint to recant, promising her earthly blessings, but then he gave the order to torture her.

The martyr was tied to a wheel with sharp knives, which cut her body. The saint prayed aloud, and as it happened, the wheel stopped by itself and would not move even with all the efforts of the executioners. An angel of the Lord, came down from Heaven, removed Euphemia from the wheel and healed her of her wounds. The saint gave thanks unto the Lord with gladness.

Not perceiving the miracle that had occurred, the torturer ordered the soldiers Victor and Sosthenes to take the saint to a red-hot oven. But the soldiers, seeing two fearsome angels in the midst of the flames, refused to carry out the order of the governor and became believers in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they too were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes bravely went to suffering. They were sent to be eaten by wild beasts. During their execution, they cried out for mercy to God, asking that the Lord would receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A heavenly Voice answered their cries, and they entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not even touch their bodies.



Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, remained unharmed. With the help of God she emerged unharmed after many other tortures and torments. Ascribing this to sorcery, the governor gave orders to dig out a new pit, and filling it with knives, he had it covered over with earth and grass, so that the martyr would not notice the preparation for her execution.

Here also Saint Euphemia remained safe, easily passing over the pit. Finally, they sentenced her to be devoured by wild beasts at the circus. Before execution the saint began to implore that the Lord deem her worthy to die a violent death. But none of the beasts, set loose at her in the arena, attacked her. Finally, one of the she-bears gave her a small wound on the leg, from which came blood, and immediately the holy Great Martyr Euphemia died. During this time there was an earthquake, and both the guards and the spectators ran in terror, so that the parents of the saint were able to take up her body and reverently bury it not far from Chalcedon.

A majestic church was afterwards built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia. At this temple the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place in the year 451. At that time, the holy Great Martyr Euphemia confirmed the Orthodox confession in a miraculous manner, and exposed the Monophysite heresy. Details of this miracle are related under July 11.

With the taking of Chalcedon by the Persians in the year 617, the relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia were transferred to Constantinople (in about the year 620). During the Iconoclast heresy, the reliquary with the relics of Saint Euphemia appears to have been thrown into the sea. Pious sailors recovered them. They were afterwards taken to the Island of Lemnos, and in the year 796 they were returned to Constantinople.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Oct. 7: Ina Essex

Oct. 14: Shooting victims in Cincinnati & Those who lost their lives in Japan Earthquake

Oct 21: Pam Franklin

Seminarians complete inaugural accredited CPE unit

For the first time, an accredited unit of Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] was conducted at Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary [STOTS], South Canaan, PA.

"Seven current students elected to pursue a unit of CPE as an enhancement of their field education, and one STOTS graduate entering military chaplaincy also requested to participate in this inaugural unit," according to Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Director of the Orthodox Church in America's Office of Institutional Chaplaincies and former STOTS Dean, who facilitated the program's development and served as its certified educator. "The unit began on January 29, 2018 and concluded on August 30.

"Drawing upon existing strong relationships with an area hospital, nursing home, and correctional facility, a satellite agreement was established with Virginia Commonwealth University, with provisional accreditation from the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education granted in January," Father Steven said. "Students visited patients, residents and incarcerated persons during the school year and then participated in parish internships during the summer."

The participants were divided into two small groups.

"The core of the clinical training process—clinical here literally meaning 'at the bedside'—is that actual encounters are written up by the chaplain and presented to their peer group," Father Steven explained. "Peers learn from each encounter as well as the chaplain, and the certified educator facilitates the reflection on each case that focuses both on what was happening for the 'patient' and for the chaplain offering pastoral care. This process assists in building pastoral skills, but also aids the students in knowing more about themselves through the context of ministry encounters.

"In addition, since our faith was shared among the participants, no discussion was needed to define, for example, hesychasm as a dimension of pastoral visits; instead, we could move directly toward how it was present or was utilized," Father Steven continued. "Students saw much of their coursework come alive in these visits. They also gained much from interactions with facility staff members and those serving as chaplains from a variety of faith traditions."

Many aspects of clinical training were previously incorporated into the seminary's internship program, one of two OCA Church-wide initiatives initiated in 1999.

"With the subsequent advent of accessible video conferencing, the sub-groups met in person during the school year, and then continued via video conferencing throughout the summer from various parishes and ministry contexts," Father Steven explained. "The relationships already being formed facilitated continued meaningful dialogue across the miles."

According to Father Steven, the initiative received funding from a donor supporting ministry in the greater community that was used to implement the satellite agreement. In the past, it also received funding from the Ganister Foundation.

"It was wonderful to see this initiative come into being after envisioning the possibility for over 20 years," Father Steven added. "It was especially meaningful to see how the students' experience of CPE contributed to their overall pastoral formation. Thanks be to God for this wonderful opportunity!"

As Director of the OCA's [Office of Institutional Chaplaincies](#), Father Steven has assisted chaplains in obtaining endorsement for a variety of ministry settings since 2003.

[Follow the work of the Office of Institutional Chaplaincies on Facebook.](#)

CANDLES / BULLETIN OFFERED FOR SEPTEMBER

Chandelier: Tina Rindfleisch: In Loving Memory of Peter Rindfleisch

Altar Candles: Joe & Valerie Schutt: In memory of Laverne Schutt, Rose Haburt & Dorothy Czuha

Candles on Tomb: Fr. Andrew: In memory for those who lost their lives on 9-11

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: Basil Glovinsky in memory of loving wife Jean.

Bulletin Sponsor: Fr. Andrew: For the health of all our Parishioners & their families & friends of the parish

CANDLES / BULLETIN OFFERED FOR OCTOBER

Chandelier: OPEN (\$50)

Altar Candles: Basil G.: (\$50) In Memory of Marion

Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) Fr. Andrew in Memory of Bishop John

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: Open (\$25)

Bulletin Sponsor: Open (\$50)