

ST. TIKHON ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDS
THE STEWARD

SPECIAL EDITION. ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2013



**METROPOLITAN
LEONTY**
1876 . 1965



**ARCHBISHOP
SYLVESTER**
1914 . 2000

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA.
OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCOME

The St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards (STAS) Operations Committee, welcomes all the delegates and observers to the Archdiocesan Assembly, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The work of STAS is to provide a means by which people can invest in the mission of the Orthodox Church across Canada through financially supporting the Archdiocese of Canada directly. This support as an above-and-beyond gift that does not replace or diminish any one's regular parish stewardship of tithing. It is a sacrificial investment in the mission of the Church in Canada, cultivating the present and future health, stability and growth of the Church.

STAS funding is used to provide administrative assistance to the Episcopacy, the Chancellery, and the Deans. We hope in time to be able to , provide additional support to seminarians (in the form of debt relief), and to missions. Beyond this it is thinkable that STAS funding may be developed to supplement clergy stipends, to support camps and youth programs, for missionary outreach, and so much more. If you are a STAS contributor, we thank you for your trust in this process of building up the Church in Canada. If you are not yet member of STAS, we hope you find the work of this program a worthwhile cause to support.

We sincerely pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit blesses this assembly with resolve and strength as it defines our work of further witnessing the saving love of the Lord as shown by St. Herman some 200 years ago, and St. Tikhon some 100 years ago. May the Lord bless our work together.



l-r Subdn. Jeremy Scratch, Fr. Matthew Francis, Bishop Irénée, Fr. Gregory Scratch, Dn. Jesse Isaac

METROPOLITAN LEONTY AND ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER.

As we come together as a diocese, it is fitting that we remember two of our most important bishops of the last fifty years: Metropolitan Leonty of New York and all America, and Archbishop Sylvester of Montreal and the Arch-diocese of Canada. This artical originally was posted at www.StNicholasNarol.com.

METROPOLITAN LEONTY

It could be said that after Sts. Innocent and Tikhon, Metropolitan Leonty is the most important Church leader in the over two hundred year life of the Russian Mission, the Metropolia, and the Orthodox Church in America. Leonid Ieronimovich Turkevich was born in 1876 in Kremenets, Volhynia. In 1905, he married Anna Chervinsky and was ordained a deacon and priest at the Pochaiv monastery. In 1906, Bishop Tikhon (later Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus) of the North American diocese found him to be a suitable candidate and sent him to become for the rector of the new seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He later became the dean of Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York where he was the main advisor of the ruling bishops. Fr. Leonid was widowed in 1925, and in 1933 took the name Leonty in monasticism, being elected and consecrated bishop of Chicago. In 1950 Bishop Leonty was elected unanimously as Metropolitan by delegates of the Eighth All American Sobor.



METROPOLITAN LEONTY AND ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER.

Metropolitan Leonty assumed leadership of a rudderless Church. Years of administrative neglect (and at times ineptitude) brought on by the Bolshevik Revolution, the Great Depression, and rising nationalism, made the once visionary Russian Mission, into a loose collection of independent congregations. Little by little Metropolitan Leonty organized and established administrative norms, such as a functioning Central Church Administration (Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer etc.) as well as statutes for the Church. He also brought with him many of the ideals of the All Russian Council of 1917- 1918. Chiefly the ideal of Sobornost (**Соборность** "Spiritual community of many jointly living people"). This included the understanding that both the laity and clergy of the Church have a responsibility in the direction of its life, as guided by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by its hierarchs. We see this lived out in our Church today, whether it be in the Metropolitan or Archdiocesan councils or our local parish councils. By the time of his death, Metropolitan Leonty had left the Metropolia with a stable enough foundation on which it could more than simply survive: it could grow into an autocephalous Church - the Orthodox Church in America (1970). The life and witness of Metropolitan Leonty, and answers to prayers through his intercessions, are currently being reviewed by the Holy Synod of the OCA, about the possible inclusion of his name in our list of North American saints. This is the same process as has been initiated about our beloved Archbishop Arseny.

ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER

Archbishop Sylvester is probably the most important Canadian hierarch since Archbishop Arseny. The future Archbishop Sylvester was born of Latvian-Russian parents in 1914 in Dvinsk, Latvia, and named Ivan Antonovich Haruns. By the early 30's his life was entirely dedicated to serving the Church. At this time, he also met, and was a devoted disciple of Archbishop John (Pommer) of Riga, until the archbishop became a martyr in 1934. During these days also, the future archbishop became acutely aware of the persecutions in the USSR, because Dvinsk was very near the border. Then, despite the early opposition of his parents, which later changed, he went away to study at the Institut de Théologie Orthodoxe Saint-Serge in Paris, France.

CONTINUED.

METROPOLITAN LEONTY AND ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER.

The future archbishop was tonsured a monk with the name Sylvester at the Institute, and then he was ordained in 1938 to the diaconate and priesthood by Metropolitan Evlogy of Paris.

Archbishop Sylvester spent his early priesthood serving many of the refugees of the Bolshevik revolution, and then Russian POW's who came to France as forced labourers for the Nazis. It could be said that this work among the broken, starving, abused and dying would leave a lasting impression on his ministry as priest and then as bishop. He was ordained to the episcopate by Metropolitan Vladimir of Paris (Ecumenical Patriarchate) in 1952, and he was assigned first to those administrative duties connected with missionary work and publications, first in Paris and then Nice France. In 1963 Bishop Sylvester moved to Canada to become the bishop of Montreal. He was elevated to Archbishop in 1966. Like Metropolitan Leonty, He inherited a diocese, that had not had an active, and stable Episcopal life in over 40 years.



Like many others in the Metropolia, he considered that autocephaly was necessary and correct for the North American Church under the conditions existing at that time. He managed to calm the fears of some, and to pacify the inflamed passions of others about this matter. In 1974, he was appointed Temporary Administrator of The Orthodox Church in America to assist the ailing Primate, Metropolitan Ireney.

In this position of great responsibility, he ably fulfilled many functions of the Primate until October, 1977, when Metropolitan Ireney retired and Metropolitan Theodosius was elected to succeed him.

CONTINUED.

METROPOLITAN LEONTY AND ARCHBISHOP SYLVESTER.

Like St. Tikhon, Archbishop Arseny, Metropolitan Leonty, and countless other bishops, priests, and laymen, Vladyka Sylvester understood the importance of cultivating Orthodoxy beyond its traditional centers. Through his foresight and charity, the blessing of English and French language missions in Canada started with him, changing the face and context of over a hundred years of Orthodoxy in Canada, with-out dismissing its historical and cultural foundations. If Vladyka Sylvester had not done what he did, and been who he was, there would very likely have been nothing for any of us, from Archbishop Seraphim (his successor) to my children's children, to inherit.

Archbishop Sylvester retired in 1981 and although the diocese was by no means structurally able to manage itself at that time without help, spiritually able to persevere, following his example of meekness and humility. In May 2000, he received Holy Unction and also the Holy Mysteries before his repose. This was through the hands of the then Hieromonk Irénée (Rochon), who would later become our current Vicar Bishop and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada. It is of note that Vladyka Sylvester requested to be buried as a monastic, and not a bishop. Bishops do not usually request this, but in this there is both an indication of his humility and his constant awareness of the primacy of his monastic life of repentance. This says more than words can convey.

LEGACY

So much has been written about both these bishops, and their blessed work. But above and beyond all their administrative and visionary accomplishments (which are far-reaching in themselves), they are truly remembered, (even venerated for) their profound love and humility. They were able to see the presence of the Kingdom in the life and liturgy of the Church, through all the dysfunction and disarray of life, and thus, bore witness to the reality of the Kingdom until the end. This is the foundation we continue to build upon and the examples we try to follow.

Both bishops had fulfilled their duties as faithful servants, as our Saviour said we should, and He will surely have greeted them with the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:23)

Pray to God for us, holy Metropolitan Leonty, and Archbishop Sylvester!

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PROTODEACON NAZARI POLATAIKO SUBDEACON JEREMY SCRATCH

ORDER OF SAINT TIKHON

Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

With the blessing of Bishop Ireneë, Bishop of Quebec City and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada, the St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards (STAS) Committee is pleased to announce that from the time of the 2013 Archdiocesan Assembly (Ottawa, Ontario) the Order of St. Tikhon will be available to be conferred upon certain persons.

The essential difference between STAS and many other stewardship programs is the focus on sustainable income through monthly giving. Those who enroll in the program can donate \$15.00 or more monthly towards the administration of the Archdiocese. This allows anyone from anywhere with any level of income to support the growth of the Church in Canada. STAS gives thanks to God for the time-commitment STAS contributors have made. For this reason the Order of St. Tikhon is based on the monthly contribution over a period of time or “life time” contribution. For example: a STAS member contributing \$100.00 per month for five years would be \$6000.00 in total. The Order of St. Tikhon is based on this “life-time” contribution by the member.

The following are the three ranks of the Order of St. Tikhon:

Bronze: \$3,000.00

Silver: \$5,000.00

Gold: \$7,000.00

The Order of St. Tikhon reflects gratitude for the patient resilience and perseverance of STAS members who put their faith in God. The building up of this mission Church requires prayer before anything. It also requires a lean, strong, well funded and faithful administration. Although the Orthodox Church has been in this country for more than a century, there is still much work to be done: the harvest is upon us (Jn 4:35). Many hands make light work.

Thank you for contributing!



ARCHIMANDRITE ALEXANDER (PIHACH) INTERVIEW

Among the changes in the Archdiocese of Canada since the last Assembly, is the departure of Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach) to Russia, to serve as the Dean of St. Catherine's Church (the OCA Representation Church in Moscow). Fr. Alexander served the Archdiocese in its redevelopment as a functional diocese for almost fifteen years as Chancellor. It was during this time that Fr. Alexander helped provide guidance and council for the development, introduction, and operation of the St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards program both as the Chancellor and as a steward in the program.

We had a chance to ask him some questions about his time working with STAS.

Did you ever think a program like STAS would have had this level of success?

Yes because there are many people in the Archdiocese that knew that there was a need to help fund the administration and when STAS appeared it gave them a way of responding to the need. Most people give donations to projects that are tangible and show results.

Has STAS met or exceeded your expectations?

This is a half full –half empty kind of question. Would we ever say that we have enough? Probably not, but the Lord gives us as much as we can handle and we are grateful for His Blessing and all that He gives us – so yes STAS has met its expectations.

If you had to note one element about STAS that works very well, what would it be?

Individual contact with the donor, this personalizes it. The letters and gifts are very important for one to continue donating. This aspect of STAS is great.

CONTINUED...

ARCHIMANDRITE ALEXANDER (PIHACH) INTERVIEW

STAS is committed to the support of the administration of the Archdiocese.

In what way do you feel this impacts the faithful of the Archdiocese?

The faithful need to know that you need staff if you want the Archdiocese to be functional . The Archdiocese is even now below minimal personnel. We probably have the least staff of any diocese in OCA and the largest territory. So without STAS there would very little administration given the size of the Archdiocese.

What would you say to someone considering becoming a Steward?

I would encourage one to become a steward, because it is our responsibility to share what God has given us, and especially in what we believe and support, our money needs to be where we say we are committed to.

Are there any such programs like STAS in Russia?

Yes in every parish there are individuals that have committed themselves to support the ministry of the parish beyond the regular donations. These individuals at times collectively take on projects in the parish for restoration and re-furbishing. Also at the larger church level - Funds are set up by individuals to facilitate things like bringing the Holy Fire each year from Jerusalem, tours of Relics etc.

What do you think other Diocese, or Churches could learn from a program like STAS?

Each diocese and parish needs to see what works in their setting, what works in one place may be a disaster in another. But looking at each others methods we can get ideas and use them within the context we work.



THE STAS COMMITTEE

The STAS committee facilitates the financial support of the administration of the Archdiocese of Canada, through communicating, mobilizing, and promoting the participation the faithful members of this diocese. The committee is made up of Archdiocesan Executive committee (ADEC):

- His Grace Bishop Irene, Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada
- Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk
- Protodeacon Nazari Polotakio
- Nikita Lopoukhine (Treasurer)
- Priest Gregory Scratch (President)

The operations committee is

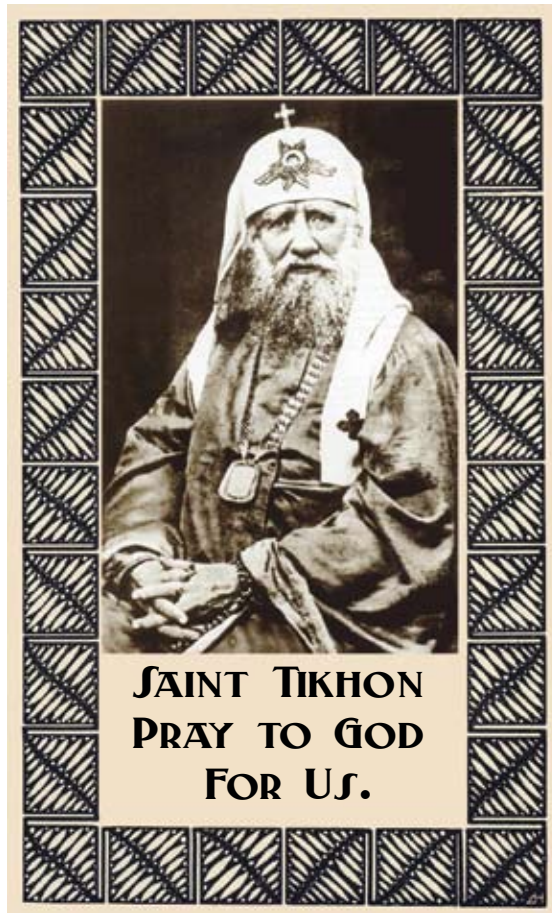
The Eastern and Western representatives of STAS are (for this past term)

- Subdn. Jeremy Scratch
- Deacon Jesse Isaac
- Priest Matthew Francis

The Eastern and Western representatives for STAS are elected from nominations at the Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada.

ST. TIKHON ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDS ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA





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