



Архієрейській Синодъ Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей
Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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January 30/February 12, 2022
Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs'

№ 11/02/22

Your Grace, Bishop Luke, Dean Nicolas G. Schidlovsky, our esteemed faculty and students of Holy Trinity Seminary,

I greet each of you on this, the patronal feast of every Orthodox seminary, the Feast of the three great hierarchs and luminaries of the Church: Saints Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom!

Each year, when this feast arrives, it brings to mind several points that are important for all Orthodox Christians to consider. First, giving thanks to God for His bountiful blessings bestowed upon His Church in the form of these three great saints, and to understand how their teachings continue to help form all of us, and particularly you, many of our future pastors. Through your future ministry, this will help you bring the Light and Gospel of Christ to the 'ends of the universe'. Secondly, this Feast always falls near to the beginning of Lent, and reminds us of our need to always stand ready to enter the Doors of Repentance.

For our Holy Trinity Seminary in particular, of which I myself am an alumnus, a graduate of the class of '72, I have many personal and fond memories of my time in Jordanville, and of the fathers and teachers who helped to form me for my own service in and to the Church.

As we approach the eve of the 75th anniversary in 2023, many wonderful blessings have been granted by Our Lord to the seminary in recent years, including the addition of a graduate program, the growth of both the undergraduate and graduate programs in the form of increased enrollment, seminary deans who've facilitated these developments, and many benefactors who've either begun, or have increased their financial support in the form of added scholarships and financial aid for our students.

While our present and future mission is, and has been, to bring the Gospel of Christ to all, we must also remember that we need to do this while honoring our Russian heritage and the legacy of our Church. Striking this healthy balance will ensure that our seminary, and

its programs, will continue to grow and prosper, for the Glory of God, and for the building up of His Holy Church.

Joining me in congratulating you are graduates of our seminary, serving the Church at the Synod of Bishops in New York City, His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan, my younger brother and concelebrant in Christ, the Archpriests Andrei Sommer and Serafim Gan, Protodeacon Eugene Kallaur and Hierodeacon Panteleimon (Jigalin), all of whom are prayerfully participating in today's festivities.

Coveting your prayers, I remain,
With love in Christ,

+ *Hilarion*

**Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York,
First-Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**