

WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE
THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD

His Grace LUKE, Bishop of Syracuse Rector of the Holy Trinity Seminary
Administration,

To the faculty and students of Holy Trinity Seminary
Your Eminence!
Venerable Fathers, dear brothers and sisters!

I sincerely congratulate you on the 75th anniversary of Holy Trinity Theological Seminary.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) spoke of Orthodox pastoral care as a loving and selfless acceptance of one's flock into one's soul, experiencing with them all the sorrows and joys, all the trials, temptations and falls of one's spiritual children, and reviving and arising through the power of compassionate love and prayer.

For 75 years, Holy Trinity Seminary, the spiritual successor of the pre-revolutionary theological schools, has not only given theological knowledge to its students, but has also educated them spiritually in the aforementioned selfless love, diligence, and service of Christ, the Russian Church, and the Russian people, both in the homeland and in the Diaspora.

Holy Trinity Seminary has given our Church Abroad three First Hierarchs, as well as a multitude of hierarchs, priests and clergy, iconographers, teachers, regents, and chanters. I am personally pleased to note that, through the prayers of St. John, San Francisco Wonderworker of Shanghai, and Archbishop Anthony (Medvedev), a dearly remembered colleague of the Brotherhood of St. Job of Pochaev, a considerable number of students of Holy Trinity Seminary from the Western American Diocese now hold very crucial positions both in our administrative church center in New York, the Cathedral of the Sign and the Synod of Bishops, as well as in the administration and faculty of Holy Trinity Seminary. And also in the administration of our vast and very diverse Western American diocese.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those, both deceased and living, who have founded, labored, sacrificed, and supported Holy Trinity Seminary over the past 75 years, and who have replenished our Church with new pastors.

On the day of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the seminary, I prayerfully wish you, Bishop Luke, your assistants, teachers and mentors of the Holy Trinity Theological Seminary the unfailing help of God in your difficult work of raising and educating the younger generation of

future ministers and workers of the Church of Christ, and to all the students strengthening in the Orthodox faith and spiritual growth.

As a token of the love and gratitude of the Western American Diocese to Holy Trinity Seminary, I enclose herewith a gift in support of our theological school.

With love in Christ,
+ Archbishop KIRILL
Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America
September 4/17, 2023