

Fulbright Scholar



Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, a Research Associate at the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, was notified early last Spring by the U.S. Department of State of his selection as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Romania for the academic year 2000-2001. He will be lecturing, beginning this autumn, in historical theology and the psychology of religion at the University of Bucharest. As part of his Fulbright assignment, His Eminence will also lecture at other academic institutions in Romania and for various civic organizations.

Source: *Orthodox Tradition*, Vol. XVII, No. 4 (2000), p. 42

Pastoral Visits*

In August 2000, with the blessing of Metropolitan Cyprian, Bishop Auxentios, accompanied by Archbishop Chrysostomos, undertook a three-week journey to visit the Midwestern parishes of the American Exarchate of our Church: the St. John the Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, IA, which is served by Protopresbyter Raphael Abraham and his son, Father John Abraham; the St. John the Baptist Church in Blue River, WI, whose pastor is Father Thomas Kulp; and the St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco Church in Medina, OH, served by Father Benedict Markley.

On the Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Œcumenical Synod, Bishop Auxentios celebrated the Divine Liturgy in Blue River. Following the Liturgy, Father Thomas and his wife, Presbytera Elizabeth, together with their small but vibrant parish, hosted a reception for the Bishop and Father John Abraham, who assisted the Bishop and Father Thomas in the Litur-

gy. The meal was followed by a very informative discussion between the clergy and Faithful. (See **photographs below: at top, left to right, Father Thomas, Bishop Auxentios, Father John, and Schemamonk Andrew, from the nearby Skete of St. Andrew the Apostle; at bottom, a group of the Faithful.**)

On the following Sunday, His Grace celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church in Cedar Rapids. With the blessing of Metropol-



itan Cyprian, and at the request of Father Raphael Abraham, in the service he Tonsured two members of the parish, Patrick Barnes and



Gabriel Hart, to the office of Reader and assigned them to serve the St. John the Baptist parish (see at left, left to right).

In the first week of the Fast of the Dormition, Bishop Auxentios and Archbishop Chrysostomos also visited the Ohio parish of St. John, which was established several years ago. The beautiful

Church is located in a peaceful rural town outside Cleveland.

His Grace, Bishop Auxentios spoke with several new catechumens in the parish, following the regular *Paraklesis* on



Tuesday evening, remarking on the unselfish and impressive work that Father Benedict and his wife, Presbytera Photini, have done to provide a traditional Orthodox witness in the Cleveland area and to expand the work of our Exarchate. (At left, Bishop Auxentios and Father Benedict.)

During their pastoral visit to Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio, both Bishop Auxentios and Archbishop Chrysostomos were moved by, and appreciative of, the gracious hospitality and Christian kindness of the clergy and the Faithful in our small but dedicated Midwestern parishes.

Clergy Conference in Bulgaria

With the blessing of Metropolitan Cyprian, President of the Holy Synod, and Bishop Photii of Triaditza, Chief Hierarch of the True (Old Calendar) Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, from September 10 to September 17 (Old Style), the third annual conference of the American Exarchate of our Church was convened in the magnificent Cathedral of the Dormition in Sofia, Bulgaria. The thirty-five pilgrims from America included six of our eleven Parish clergy; Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, and his Deacon, Father Nectarios; Mother Elizabeth, Abbess of the Convent of St. Elizabeth, with one of her nuns, Mother Kypriane; as well as Archbishop Chrysostomos and Bishop Auxentios. The group was also joined by Father Seraphim Gascoigne and his Deacon from the St. Nicholas Cathedral (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad) in Seattle, WA.



On Sunday evening, September 11 (Old Style), Archbishop Chrysostomos held a question-and-answer session with a large group of the Cathedral clergy and laity (**see above**). The next day, the pilgrims visited the beautiful Convent of the Holy Protection in a suburb of Sofia. The forty-five sisters of the convent, under the spiritual guidance of their revered spiritual Mother, Abbess Seraphima, have preserved some of the finest traditions of Bulgarian Orthodox art and

Church ornament in the handicraft by which they support themselves. The senior clergyman serving the convent, Archimandrite Sergius, a former assistant professor at the theology faculty of the University of Sofia, is well known to the readers of *Orthodox Tradition*, for which he has written a number of fine articles.

On Tuesday morning, September 13 (Old Style), the pilgrims visited the Monastery of St. John the Forerunner in Jablyano. The more than thirty monks of this monastic institution are under the spiritual direction of Abbot Cassian, whose excellent scientific treatise on the Julian Calendar was also published several years ago by the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies.

On Wednesday, September 14 (Old Style), the visiting clergy and the clergy of the Dormition Cathedral concelebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross with Bishop Photii, Archbishop Chrysostomos, and Bishop Auxentios (see below). The



magnificent choir of the Cathedral chanted the service in Bulgarian, Greek, Slavonic, and English. That evening and the following morning, Bishop Photii, Archbishop Chrysostomos, and Bishop Auxentios presided over the two formal sessions of the American Exarchate clergy conference, which were introduced to a large audience, on both days, by Archimandrite Akakios. On Wednesday evening, formal papers were read by His Eminence, Bishop Photii (“A Crisis in Contemporary Orthodox Ecclesial Self-Awareness: Is Any Notion of ‘External Correctness’ Allowable in Orthodoxy?”), by Archbishop Chrysostomos (“The Unity of the Orthodox Church and the Significance of Resistance Movements in the Preservation of That Unity”), by Bishop Auxentios (“The Importance of the Orthodox Ethos and Religious

Tolerance in Light of the Threat of Political Ecumenism to Orthodox Identity”), and by Dr. Joseph Miller (“Cults and Cultism in American Religion”). We hope to publish these papers, at a later date, in the “Proceedings” of this conference.



On Thursday morning, after a short presentation on missions by Father Seraphim Gascoigne, the American clergy fielded questions from the audience on spiritual matters and Church affairs (see above). Shortly after, Archbishop Chrysostomos departed for Romania, while



the American pilgrims set off for a two-day tour of the ancient Bulgarian capital of Veliko Turnovo and other historic cities of the country. They also visited several parishes of the True Orthodox Church of Bulgaria. On Saturday, September 17 (Old Style), a number of Bulgarian Faithful and clergy gathered at the airport for the departure of the pilgrims, where the former chanted hymns and showered the departing visitors with flowers and farewell greetings. To a number, the American pilgrims were overwhelmed by the piety, humility, kindness, and hospitality of Bishop Photii and his flock. **(See, at the bottom of the previous page, Bishop Photii with a group of his Faithful and the American pilgrims in front of the main door of the Dormition Cathedral.)**

* Source: *Orthodox Tradition*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1 (2001), pp. 42-48.