

## Ordination of Deacon Father Nicholas Chernjavsky

**WITH THE BLESSING** of Metropolitan Cyprian, on the Feast of the Saints of Mt. Athos and the Feast of All Saints of Russia, Deacon Father Nicholas Chernjavsky, 35, was ordained to the rank of Presbyter by Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna. Father Nicholas will serve a group of faithful in Rochester, New York, who have formed a mission parish dedicated to the Ascension of Christ and the New Martyrs of Russia.

The Ordination took place at the St. John Chrysostomos Church in Saugus (Boston), Massachusetts, during an Hierarchical Liturgy served by Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki, Archimandrite Akakios, and Hierodeacon Nectarios, who travelled from California for the event. They were joined by the Reverend Dr. Gregory Telepneff, pastor of the Saugus Church, and servers and Subdeacons from the new Rochester parish. Also in attendance were a number of Father Nicholas's relatives and a contingent of his faithful, who travelled from Rochester to Boston for his Ordination.

After the Ordination ceremony, a banquet was held at a local restaurant in honor of the new Priest and his family and parishioners, hosted by the St. John Chrysostomos parish. At the meal, the newly-ordained Priest was given a Russian-style sterling silver Cross, a gift offered in honor of his Ordination on behalf of Metropolitan Cyprian. The next day, Father Nicholas departed by air for the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, where he will spend time training to serve as a Presbyter.

Father Nicholas and his wife, Matushka [Presbyteria] Christine, are the parents of five young children. A graduate of the State University of New York, where he met his wife, Father also holds a Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. His secular employment is in the field of information technology. His parents, both born in Russia, reared him in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA), where he was close to the brotherhood of the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordan-

ville, New York. In 2002, on the Feast of St. Gregory Palamas, Father Nicholas was ordained a deacon by Metropolitan Laurus and assigned to the Protection of the Mother of God parish in Rochester.

Following the announcement of the union of the ROCA, formerly one of our Sister Churches, with the Moscow Patriarchate, Father Nicholas and a group of Readers and Subdeacons from the Holy Protection parish asked to be received by our Synod of Bishops, finding themselves unable to accept this unfortunate change of course in their Church. Metropolitan Laurus graciously gave them canonical releases to enter into our jurisdiction. With exemplary affection and appreciation for the clergy and faithful of their former parish, they established a parish in resistance, as we noted above, and are working to acquire property to establish a permanent place of worship. They are, in the meantime, holding services in a temporary facility.

We wish Father Nicholas and his small flock many years in service to the Church, faithful to their consciences and to the commands of love.

*(See photograph below of the gathered clergy and faithful, following the Ordination. At center, in gold vestments, Father Nicholas.)*

