

Feast Day of the Exarchate Parish of St. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, California

ON JULY 19, 2010 (Old Style), the parish of St. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, California, celebrated its annual Feast Day. His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki, Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Father Yakov Ferens, pastor of the parish, and Protodeacon Father George Skvor concelebrated the Divine Liturgy. Archbishop Chrysostomos, on account of ill health, was unable to serve. The temporary parish facility was filled to capacity, with some sixty faithful in attendance. (*See, below, Bishop Auxentios and the clergy and a group of the faithful following the Divine Liturgy.*) In his sermon during the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Auxentios thanked the parish for its fidelity to Orthodoxy; commented on the spirit of love prevailing among the faithful; and thanked Father Yakov, his wife Matushka Agnieszka, Father George and his wife, Matushka (Diakonissa) Helen, Schemamonk



Father Sergius, a brother of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery who assists in the parish, and the parish warden and the choir members for their unselfish service and dedication. He reiterated his gratitude at the Agape Meal, where Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Stamirovsky were presented with an Icon in appreciation for their many sacrifices in helping to establish the parish. (They have since moved to Northern California.) An Icon was also given to Father Sergius, in celebration of his seventieth birthday and in gratitude for his service to the parish. Both of the hand-painted Icons were from the hand of Father Yakov, who is an accomplished iconographer. The meal and presentations came to an end with the singing of “Many Years” to those honored.

