

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMANO BYZANTINE SYNOD OF THE ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
PO Box 16201 • Duluth Minnesota 55806-1612

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." I saiah 43:1-2

BISHOP-ELECT NAMED

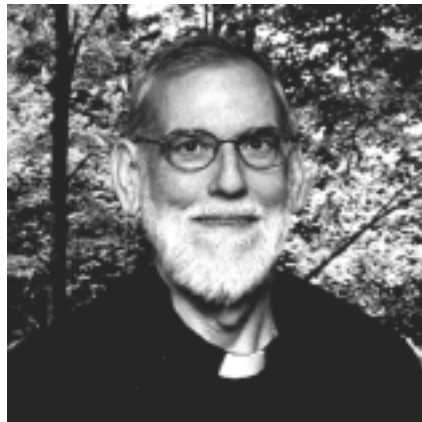
The Right Reverend Archimandrite Lukas Pedro Prieto CIHM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Locum Tenens of the Archdiocese of the Americas, Norfolk Virginia, has been named the new Bishop Ordinary of the Archdiocese of the Americas, replacing Archbishop John Marie Utz SSS who retired from this office on January 2, 1998. His Eminence the Metropolitan will celebrate the Liturgy of Consecration on October 17, 1999 at St Michael Archangel Parish of Norfolk Virginia. Bishop-elect Prieto will become the second to serve the Archdiocese since it was chartered as a separate entity of the Metropolitanate in 1996. Bishop-elect Lukas will become the first new bishop to be consecrated since 1993.

ORDINATION AND CLOTHING ANNOUNCED

The Romano Byzantine Church will ordain its first new priest since 1995, and clothe its first new Religious Brother since 1995, during Divine Liturgy to be celebrated at St Michael Archangel Parish, Norfolk Virginia scheduled for October 17, 1999. His Eminence the Metropolitan will ordain Reverend William James Koch to the Sacred Priesthood. Reverend Koch recently completed his Master of Canonical

Jurisprudence having studied through both Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary and Romano Byzantine College towards this degree. Reverend Koch, his wife Iris, their sons Jeremy and Jason, and granddaughter Jennifer, are all converts from the Lutheran Church. Reverend Koch has been in preparation for ordination since January 1997. He will continue as rector of Holy Family Seminary, Tacoma Washington. Iris will be blessed as a Secular Servant of Mercy, a lay religious community dedicated to education and healing, which she currently serves as moderator.

His Eminence the Metropolitan will bless and receive temporary vows from Aron John Kjera SSS for the Society of the Sacred Sacrament. Temporary vows are promised for one year before taking them perpetually. Brother-elect has been in training at the Metropolitanate since December 1996. He is currently canon law auditor for the Metropolitanate and Synod, and has commenced studies for his Bachelor of Canonical Jurisprudence degree.



Rev William J Koch

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He earned his Associate of Science degree from Brainerd Community College, and completed requirements for a second degree from Hellenic Orthodox University of Athens. He is currently completing canon law studies through Romano Byzantine College. He, too, is a convert from the Lutheran Church. He will continue to serve the Synod, and will assist in the formation of St Spyridon Parish which will serve Duluth Minnesota and Superior Wisconsin, where he will eventually teach Christian Doctrine and serve as Parish Assistant. His plans are to continue studies for the priesthood.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to increased mail volume at the Metropolitanate offices, the address for the Orthodox Christian Herald, North American Canon Law Society, and the Commission on Religious Counseling & Healing has been changed. The new address is:

PO Box 16201
Duluth MN, 55806-0201

ORDINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS CLOTHINGS

- ✦ Timothy Aaron Kjera SSS will profess vows in the Society of the Sacred Sacrament as a Monastic Brother on October 16th, 1999, St Michael Archangel Parish, Norfolk Virginia.
- ✦ William James Koch SSS, ordained deacon on September 15th, 1999, Michigan City Indiana.
- ✦ William James Koch SSS, will be ordained priest on October 17th, 1999, St Michael Archangel Parish, Norfolk Virginia, by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen.
- ✦ Lukas Pedro Prieto CIHM, will be consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of the Metropolitanate on October 16th, 1999, Norfolk Virginia.

APPOINTMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- ✦ Brother Timothy Aaron Kjera SSS JCB, Financial Officer of the Synod, and Secretary of the Metropolitanate, effective October 17th, 1999.
- ✦ Reverend Fr George Gonzalez JCD, Canon Lawyer for the Romano Byzantine Education System effective September 3rd, 1999.
- ✦ Reverend Fr James Koch SSS JCM, Judge of Tribunal of the First Instance for Western Region of the Archdiocese, effective October 18th, 1999.
- ✦ Most Reverend Lukas Prieto CIHM, Interim Ordinary of the Archdiocese of the Americas, effective October 16th, 1999.
- ✦ Reverend Fr Eric Demetrios Wruck SSS DC, Moderator and Grand Chancellor of the Chevaliers de Notre Dame de LaSalette, effective July 5th, 1999.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHUCH WORLD

ROMANO BYZANTINE CHURCH IN INDIA

[Madras] The Diocese of India, under Bishop S John SSS DD, after two years of separation, has advised the Metropolitanate that it is still in communion with the Romano Byzantine Synod. Bishop John explained to the Metropolitan Hierarch that a certain priest in the diocese had been intercepting all letters there from the Metropolitanate in an attempt to discredit the Synod. The Metropolitanate immediately responded to this communication greeting Bishop John, and advising that the all dioceses must become more cautious of priests who seek higher offices and the episcopacy.



Bishop John and Diocesan Consultors

ROMANO BYZANTINE CHURCH IN SPAIN

[Cordoba] Sister Maria Alvarez SSM corresponded with the Metropolitanate in July 1999. She advised the Metropolitan that the Secular Servants of Mercy in Spain are loyal to the Church and the Diocese of Spain. However, she also advised that the Church there is in need of financial assistance. The Metropolitanate promised to assist with this concern later this year. If anyone would like to assist with a donation, please send it to the Metropolitanate marked for Church in Spain, payable to Romano Byzantine Synod. All donations are tax deductible.

INCARDINATIONS

- ✦ Reverend Fr John Bliss, Missouri.

- ✦ John Thomas Kelly deposed and degraded from Sacred Orders, July 31st, 1999.

DISCIPLINARY ACTS

- ✦ Dr Bob Henry removed as judge and canonist of Archdiocesan Tribunal, effective July 31st, 1999.

PRAY FOR THE ILL AND SUFFERING

- ✦ Roberto Cranshaw JD JCD
- ✦ Fr William Koch SSS JCM

OFFICIAL ACTS Cont.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

✦ James Skilling, Placitas New Mexico, on May 21st, 1999. James was the husband of Rohini Skilling DCh, former President of the Commission on Religious Counseling and Healing.

IMPORTANT NOTES

✦ The Servants of Christ the Merciful has been canonically dissolved and merged with the Society of the Sacred Sacrament on August 21st, 1999. All Members are now to use the acronym "SSS" after their names. Most Reverend Joseph Mpongo SSS JCD, named Superior General.

THE BODY OF CHRIST: A DEFENSE FOR THE MALE PRIESTHOOD

†Stephen Robert Thomas, SSS JCD

Throughout contemporary history, there have been started many movements which strive to bring women into the ranks of the priesthood. Although many biblical and apostolic defenses exist against this, there are many pious persons who continue their battle for this acceptance within the Christian Church (as a whole). One of the most recent biblical defenses offered in favor of this issue is the following: "For the body does not consist of one member but of many... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:14,27).

We certainly can agree that together as individuals we comprise the body of Christ. The operative word here is "individually" which attests to the different functions that each of us



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as members might have in the body. If we equate this with the human body, which is created by God, we find that within it there is the heart, the lungs, the spleen, the kidneys, the liver, and many other organs which are important to the functions of the body in general. We do not expect the liver to serve as the heart, and the lungs certainly cannot replace the function of the kidneys. Each has its own particular and very important function. Likewise, men are not meant to give birth to children - only women. This was the plan from the beginning and, although some have altered this in certain religious groups - it remains the same today in Orthodoxy.

From the beginning, Christ intended His Priesthood to be made up of males. This was tradition in the Jewish Church long before Christ. When Jesus began His ministry, He called forth twelve men to serve Him and His Ministry. As God, He certainly knew what was to be done then and for always. The Blessed Virgin, the most holy of women, was not even called to this office. In fact, the Blessed Virgin was not present at the Last Supper. Since Christ is the author of the Law, and the founder of the Church, who then are we to question His desires; who are we to change what has been tradition? It is for this reason that the Orthodox Christian Church, Catholic and Apostolic, does not admit women into the Holy Priesthood. However, we do not allow men to become nuns either. Therefore, each member has a specific

function making perfect the body. (The Orthodox Christian Herald welcomes your comments.)



Dr Payne with his students

FORMER RBES SUPERINTENDENT IN JAPAN

Dr Anthony G Payne, Former Superintendent of the Romano Byzantine Education System and the current Chairman of the Board of Regents, accepted a position at Teikyo Kagaku University in Kanagawa Japan. He has been in Japan teaching English since may 1999. Since his arriving there, he has been well accepted by students and other faculty members, and has even acquired a foster child. No date of return has been announced.

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE:
History of the RBSOCC**

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICES

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD – SUBSCRIPTIONS & CLASSIFIEDS * You can now subscribe to the OCH for the annual donation of \$20.00 (USA), US\$25 (Canada & Mexico), or US\$35 (Foreign). You can also reach over 1,000 readers for just 30¢ per word/number (40¢ per word in **bold**) per insertion of a classified ad. Please write for information on display ads. The editor reserves the right to reject certain ads for just cause. Send your payment to Orthodox Christian Herald, PO Box 16201, Duluth Minnesota 55816-0201. Subscriptions mailed to same address. Check/Money Order payable to “CPCC” Issues: January-March, April/May, June-August, September/October, November/December.

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Address Correction Requested

EDUCATION

ROMANO BYZANTINE COLLEGE offering programs in Canon Law and Chiropractic (theocentric Holistic Healing). Write RBC, 2123 West Fifth Street, Second Floor, Duluth MN 55806 or fax: (218) 733-0349 for more information.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

SECULAR SERVANTS OF MERCY (Romano Byzantine) open to married/single laity offers a new challenge and rewarding future to all who join. For more information on how you can serve humanity in counseling and healing as a member, write: SSM Moderator, Holy Family Seminary, PO Box 5461, Tacoma WA 98415.

ORDER OF ST BENEDICT (Romano Byzantine) accepting applications from deacons or priests interested in serving the Orthodox Catholic Church in a parish assignment at Infant Jesus of Prague Church. For more information write, Father John Gabriel OSB, Infant Jesus of Prague Chapel, 3442 W Woodlawn Street, San Antonio TX 78228.

CONGREGATION OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Romano Byzantine) seeks candidates for English/Hispanic ministries. Contact Arcimandrite Lukas Pedro Prieto CIHM, St Michael the Archangel Mission, 7812-4 San Antonio Blvd, Norfolk VA 23505.

CHEVALIERS DE NOTRE DAME DE LASALETTE, %Father Eric Wruck, PO Box 1140, Makawao HI 96768.