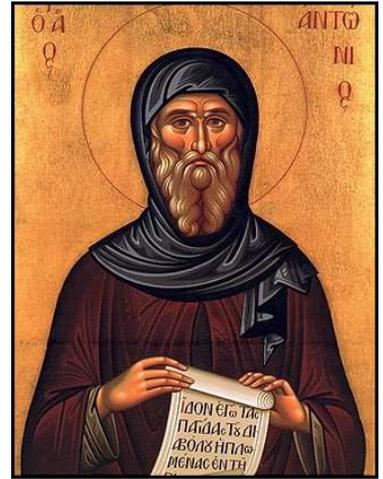


St. Anthony's Scroll



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The Great and Holy Council PENTECOST 2016

For literally one century, the hierarchy of the Orthodox Church has had a plan to meet. Why? What's the point? The answer is simple but complicated. When our ancestors immigrated to this country (and other countries throughout the world), they came for a better life – for more opportunity. They were able to further their education, start businesses, and raise their children in a land where they too could have a promising future.

In addition, these first generation families of the early 20th century established churches. A Greek family would start a Greek Church. A Syrian family would establish a Syrian Church, and on and on down the cultural line. As ethnic communities grew, a priest would be sent from their mother land and he would be the leader of the community. Eventually, the communities grew even more, which led to a need of bishops. So the same way a priest was sent, the mother land would send a bishop. These young immigrant families quickly learned that this growth would present an anomaly to Orthodox Christian canon law which states, and I paraphrase, “one bishop, one city.” Essentially, there should only be one presiding bishop for each city or region. So circa World War I, plans for all the bishops to gather from every region of the world would begin. The New Lands (or the

“diaspora”) would need to be discussed. These are the areas where Orthodox Christians live where there is no patriarch, e.g. The U.S., Australia, Europe.

So here we are, 100 years later. What was originally thought of as a potential problem by our ancestors has come to fruition and has produced much fruit, and the plan for the hierarchs to gather has also come to fruition. In just a couple of weeks, every Orthodox Church in the world will be represented in what is being called, “The Great and Holy Council.” As

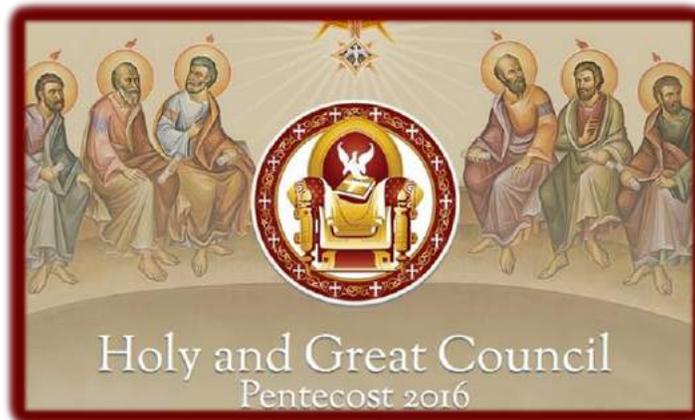
one can imagine, this is a huge undertaking. There are tons of questions about what will be discussed and the decisions that will be made. In my opinion, if absolutely nothing gets accomplished, i.e. if not one decision is made, this gathering will still be deemed a success because it's never

happened before! Well, it happened about 1,200 years ago, but that was many lifetimes ago. Please pray for all the clergy and laity who will be in attendance. *Written by Fr. Anthony*

Here are some frequently asked questions taken from www.OrthodoxCouncil.org.

1) What is the Holy and Great Council?

The Holy and Great Council (the Council) is the meeting of all fourteen autocephalous (self-governed) Churches of the Orthodox Church. *(cont'd on next page)*



St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

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2) Who convenes the Council?

The Council is convened by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. As “First Among Equals,” the Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch retains certain responsibilities unique to his office for the benefit of ecclesiastical order and for the facilitation of Orthodox unity.

3) Who presides over the Council?

In keeping with the tradition of honor and historical practice, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will preside over the Council.

4) Who will attend?

All fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches will be present at the Council. The Primate of each Church will lead a delegation of up to twenty-four bishops and six advisors.

5) Why twenty-four bishops in each delegation?

For pastoral and logistical reasons, attendance by all Orthodox hierarchy throughout the world is unfeasible. The number twenty-four is based on the prophecy of the elders seated around the throne of Christ described in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 4.

6) How will decisions be taken during the Council?

All decisions of the Council will be taken by a process of consensus. During the Council, each Church will cast a single vote for each issue discussed; however, any bishop that does not agree with the ultimate decision of his particular Church may have his opinion and reservations noted in the official minutes of the Council.

7) What will be discussed?

The official agenda includes six discussion items:

- A) The Orthodox Diaspora (the question of how to organize the Orthodox Church in historically non-Orthodox lands)
- B) Autonomy and the Means by which It is Proclaimed
- C) The Sacrament of Marriage and Its Impediments

D) The Importance of Fasting and Its Observance Today

E) Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World

F) The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today’s World

8) What is the purpose of the Council?

The purpose of the Holy and Great Council is to resolve ecclesiastical irregularities (items A and B), to speak on pastoral concerns affecting Orthodox Christians (items C and D), and to reaffirm the relevance and contributions of the Orthodox Church within the global society (items E and F).

9) Why Crete?

Initial plans were for the Council to convene in the Church of Haghia Irene (Holy Peace of God), the location of the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, in present-day Istanbul. However, due to the current geopolitical environment of the region, certain [Bishops] requested that the Council take place outside of Turkey. Since Crete is within the jurisdiction of Constantinople and lies in an Orthodox country, the Academy of Crete was deemed a suitable venue.

10) What is the significance of the Council?

The Council will address matters concerning the life of the Church in the contemporary world in the hope of articulating a universal voice regarding such issues. The mere fact that a meeting of such caliber is to convene is significant in itself. While there have been many councils throughout the centuries, there has never been a council with such a broad representation of Churches and bishops.

11) Is this an Ecumenical Council?

This is not an Ecumenical Council. It is a “Great Council” inasmuch as the entire Orthodox Church will be represented. An Ecumenical Council is always recognized in retrospect by the conscience of the Church.

The attending bishops from our Archdiocese here in North America will be His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of New York and His Grace Bishop JOHN of Worcester. Please remember them and all the clergy and laity who will be in attendance.



UPDATES

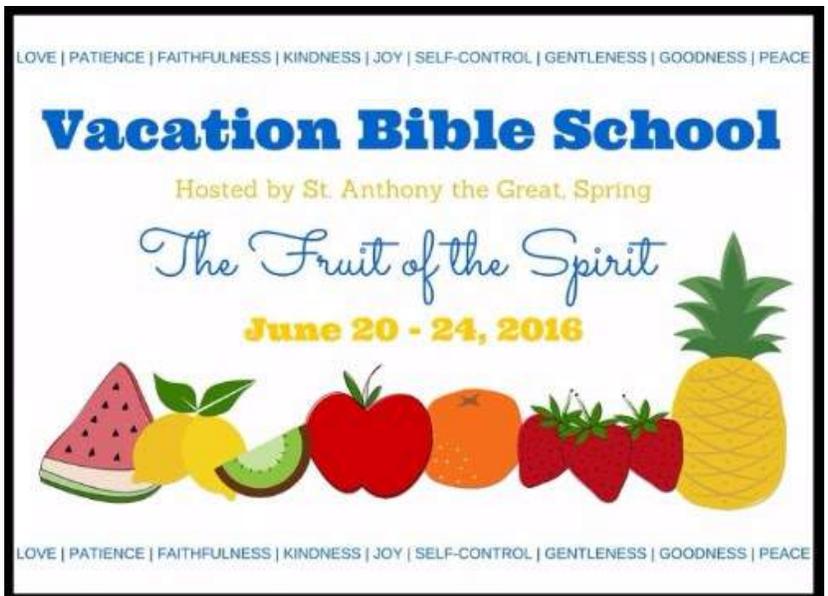
Have you ordered your St. Anthony T-Shirt yet?? Contact Adella to order yours today!

Vacation Bible School is coming up soon! Delay no further if you yet to register your child(ren)!

Our MAM Ladies Society is making baklava! It's always a great time for fellowship!

Congratulations to all the graduates, pictured and not pictured! 😊

This year's PLC is in Tulsa and it's not too late to join us! We'll be hosting next year so now's a good time to "get your feet wet" if you've never been to one before! Call Fr Anthony if you questions.



Join us for
Baklava Making
Every Wednesday
from 10a-2p

**2016 DOWAMA PLC
JUNE 15-18, 2016**



The Diocese of Wichita Parish Life Conference will be held at the world class Hyatt Regency Tulsa, OK. Rooms for this conference are at the special rate of \$105 per night. Visit www.tulsa2016.com for more info.



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Youth Director	Adella Winder
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Mediterranean Night Gala

10th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, September 17th

The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center

Live Entertainment ~ Dinner & Dance ~ Silent Auction

NEW THIS YEAR...we are raffling a brand new Toyota Camry!
With the purchase of one raffle ticket, participants will have a chance to win a flat screen TV, a diamond necklace or the grand prize Toyota Camry.

~ Raffle Ticket \$100 ~

All proceeds will support The All In Building Fund Campaign

Mark Your Calendars!