

Reception of Father Yakov Ferens and the Formation of a New Mission in San Diego, California

WITH THE BLESSING of Metropolitan Cyprian, on June 12, 2007 (New Style), Father Yakov Ferens, formerly pastor of the St. John of Kronstadt Church, a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in San Diego, California, was received by Archbishop Chrysostomos into the American Exarchate of our Church. His wife, Matushka Agnia, and his family, as well as a contingent of his flock, were also received into the Exarchate.

Father Yakov, unable to accept in good conscience the union of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad with the Moscow Patriarchate, petitioned to enter our jurisdiction, after resigning from his former parish. He and his family, with his flock of some fifteen faithful, were blessed by Archbishop Chrysostomos to begin a mission dedicated to St. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John Kronstadt. The mission will worship in a house Church, until a proper Church can be built.

In an exemplary act of Christian conscience, Father Yakov and those with him undertook their move without animosity, with appreciation to their former Bishop, and without judging those holding views and sentiments contrary to their own.

Father Yakov was ordained to the Priesthood by His Eminence, Metropolitan Laurus, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, on Sunday, October 23, 2005 (New Style), at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. A native of Poland, he studied Russian art at the C. K. Norwid School in Lublin and religious art at the Maria Curie University in Sklowdowska.

After immigrating to the United States, Father Yakov enrolled in Holy Trinity Seminary, in Jordanville, New York, from which he graduated in 1995. Following his graduation, he established himself as a dis-

tinguished iconographer, while serving as a deacon at the Holy Trinity Monastery, also located in Jordanville, New York.

(See, below, Father Yakov, at left, with Protopresbyter David Cownie and Father Jerome Zubricky, from the Church of Sts. Cyprilan and Justina, in Etna, CA, during a visit, in late June by the three Priests to the Holy Trinity parish in Oxnard, California.)

