

**Orthodox Church in America**  
**21<sup>st</sup> All American Council**  
**Plenary Session VI**  
**Friday, July 18, 2025**  
**Arizona Grand Resort**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

***Opening Prayer***

The session was convened at 9:12 AM with the singing of “The Grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Lay Vice-Chair Ms. Hollie Benton announced that \$3,646.00 was collected for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) at yesterday’s primatial Liturgy.

The Holy Synod has approved the Plenary Session V minutes. They have been posted to the OCA website.

***Pan-Orthodox Agencies (Assembly of Bishops)***

Priest Nicholas Anton, Director of Operations of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, addressed the Council.

He introduced the vision and approach of the Assembly, outlining its various ministries. He indicated that a new digital app of the Assembly, “Koinonia,” is forthcoming.

***Military Chaplains Report***

Archpriest Theodore Boback, Dean of the Office of Military Chaplains, delivered his report to the Council. The full report may be read in the Council Reports booklet.

Archpriest Sean Levine and Priest Thaddeus Werner gave personal accounts of their chaplaincy ministries.

***Institutional Chaplains Report***

Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Director of the Office of Institutional Chaplains, delivered his report to the Council. The full report may be read in the Council Reports booklet.

***Final Resolutions***

Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, Clergy Vice-Chair, stated that there were no resolutions submitted from the floor.

***Housekeeping***

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk made two housekeeping announcements.

### ***Installation of Metropolitan Council***

His Beatitude installed the newly elected members of the Metropolitan Council. “O Lord, save Thy people...” was sung.

### ***Concluding Remarks from Metropolitan Tikhon***

His Beatitude offered a few words of reflection on the past week.

He remarked that this morning at the Akathist of All-American Saints, the Gospel reading (Mt. 28:16-20) mentioned that the apostles gathered in a moment on a mountain. We are, as has been said, at an Orthodox moment. At the Rite of the Elevation of the Precious Cross, the bishop lowers the cross before bringing it up again. It would seem that today we have come to the “moment” where the bishop is about to raise the cross again. Our movements in the Church follow the path of the Cross – through the weight of struggles and the glory of victories. This is an image of our existence as Orthodox Christians, a reminder that the Cross is at the center of our struggles and our blessings. By remaining faithful to Christ and the Cross we can weather the waves and storms of life.

He then reflected that having glorified a new saint, Righteous Matushka Olga of Kwethluk, we have now added her to the company of saints that Christ has gathered for our benefit. Many can remember the days when there was one saint, Saint Herman of Alaska, and now there are nineteen. But we do not depend on the quantitative aspect of this. The newly commissioned icon of North American Saints reflects this – even without centuries of martyric witness, it seems that we are poised to fulfill the Gospel reading from this morning: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

### ***Credentials Report***

Archpriest John Cox, Committee Chair, delivered the following report for this session:

Hierarchs: 11

Clergy Delegates: 196

Lay Delegates: 158

Clergy Observers: 18

Lay Observers: 54

Total Present: 437

### ***Closing Prayer and Adjournment***

With no objections from the floor, Fr. Jarmus declared Plenary Session VI concluded and the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council adjourned at 10:15 AM. The Council closed with the singing of “It Is Truly Meet.”