

## **HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP LAZAR ON HIS ANNUAL TOUR TO THE USA**

This October His Eminence, Archbishop Lazar (Puhalo) made his annual visit to the United States. Vladyka Lazar spoke at numerous retreats, parishes, seminaries, universities and private homes.

**Oct 1-7.** His Eminence con-celebrated the divine services and spoke at St Matthew Orthodox Church in Columbia, Maryland, and St Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC, on “The Sweet Mystery of the Parish” and “The Three Levels of Prayer”.

**Oct 8-9.** Vladyka lectured on the same themes at St Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, before a class of seminary students as part of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Educational Series, entitled this year “Wisdom of the Archbishops”. After the lecture at St Tikhon’s, Vladyka Lazar went to Phoenix, Arizona, for the Romanian Clergy Retreat where he delivered two talks on science and religion.

**Oct 10-13.** His Eminence, Archbishop Lazar returned to the eastern seaboard, speaking on “The Sweet Mystery of the Parish” at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Mission in Stafford, Virginia, where he also celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered a homily.

**Oct 14-15.** Vladyka Lazar travelled to Connecticut, where a welcoming reception was held in his honour.

**Oct 16.** Vladyka Lazar was warmly received for a large gathering at Three Saints Church in Ansonia, CT. He spoke on a variety of subjects, among them the relationship between theology and science, the meaning of marriage and the Liturgy and Scripture. Later that evening, he attended Vespers at Holy Transfiguration Church in New Haven and enjoyed a performance by the Stremsky Family Children’s Choir from Russia. This choir is made up of part of the adopted family of seventy children of Archpriest Nikolai Stremsky and his wife Matushka Galina from Sarakhtash. About twenty of the children came with their mother on their fifth annual visit to the United States. Archbishop Lazar was visibly touched when the choir closed with an angelic rendition of “*Eis pola eti Despota.*”

**Oct 17.** Vladyka Lazar led a Bible study at a private home in Ansonia where he spoke about the misunderstandings caused by mistranslations of the Scriptures, and the need to study both the history of the Bible and its meaning as given by the Holy Church. Vladyka Lazar stressed the importance of reading the Scriptures in conjunction with the commentaries of the Holy Fathers. Later that evening, Vladyka Lazar attended Vespers and lectured on “The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage” at St Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Bridgeport.

**Oct 18.** His Eminence, Archbishop Lazar, spoke on the “Sweet Mystery of the Parish” at the Deanery Clergy Retreat, held at Christ the Saviour Mission in

Southbury, CT. Archbishop Lazar emphasized the need for clergy to recall the blessing of celebrating the divine services and the importance of interacting with the laity, stressing also the laity's part in ministering to the faithful.

**Oct 19.** Vladyka Lazar visited Yale University and toured historic Battell Chapel. In Lovett Room he gave an open forum before a group of students, clergy, and teachers. Afterwards, he was escorted to the Graduate Club, where a conversation about the divine services ensued. That night Vladyka Lazar returned to Christ the Saviour Mission in Southbury, where he gave a talk after Vespers.

**Oct 19-20.** Vladyka Lazar's trip came to a close at Three Saints Church in Ansonia, where V. Rev. Michael Roshak hosted His Eminence, Archbishop Lazar, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese. A highlight was Vladyka Lazar's explanation of the Liturgy and the Book of the Apocalypse. *Eis pola eti Despota!*

Edited from the notes of Rebekah Goodyear