

# OCA DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS

Brief AAC Report

Plenary Session VII

November 4, 2011

V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich,

Department Director



# Brief Department Highlights:

- Please see Department Report pages 20-22 for department membership and written report. Please also view our department webpage, [www.orthinc.org](http://www.orthinc.org) linked to OCA website.
- Metropolitan JONAH is the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Endorser for OCA clergy and laypersons who are clinically trained.
- The OCA is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS) [www.comissnetwork.org](http://www.comissnetwork.org)
- Fr. Steven serves as endorsing representative to COMISS and credentialing bodies.



# Serving Institutional Chaplains

- This department reviews and recommends endorsements for Orthodox clergy and laypersons.
  - New endorsements that are institution-specific for chaplains and/or for board certification through credentialing bodies.
  - Five-year peer review updates of endorsement, as well as for those moving to new positions.
- First formal visitation, through this department, of an institutional chaplain occurred in September, 2011.
- Plans to be made for second military and institutional chaplain conference.

# Institutional Chaplain Visitation



Formal visitation with Fr. Alexandre Ioukhaievskikh by Institutional Chaplain Department, together with Bishop MICHAEL: Sept. 30 Sunrise Care Center, Sheepshead Bay; Oct. 1 Holy Pokrov Cathedral (2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Manhattan, on Patronal Feast Day), including celebration of Commissioning Service.



# Serving the Church

- Institutional Chaplains participate in the life of their respective parishes, and aid in mentoring those interested in ministry. The fruits of their ministry are returned to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.
- Institutional Chaplain Department is collaborating with the Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid in developing ***Compassion-in-Action: Parish Ministry Training***.
- Institutional Chaplains aid in teaching about care in hospitals, long-term care settings, corrections, and other settings, attend church conferences, and aid in preparing seminarians interested in CPE.

# Representation in Greater Pastoral Care and Counseling Community

- Department represented by members at conferences and church gatherings (Ex. SVS Women's Conference).
- Fr. Steven is Chair-Elect of **Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies**, a body composed of endorsers from a multitude of Faith Traditions. This body actively reinforces the significance of the relationships between faith traditions and credentialing bodies as related to chaplains serving in institutional settings.
- Fr. Steven attended the International Congress for Pastoral Care and Counseling held in New Zealand in August. [www.icpcc.net](http://www.icpcc.net)



# Conclusion

- Department members include priests, deacons, lay men and women. Those certified have completed an M.Div. and at 1600 hours of supervised ministry training, and fulfill continuing education requirements.
- For questions, if I have already left on my return trip home, please e-mail: [institutionalchaplains@oca.org](mailto:institutionalchaplains@oca.org)