



Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk, arrives in America to begin his service

On 6 August 2014, Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk, Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA, arrived in the United States where he will carry out his archpastoral ministry. Meeting him at the John F. Kennedy International Airport were archpriest George Konyev, Chancellor of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, and Hegumen Nicodemus (Balyasnikov), cleric of St Nicholas Cathedral in New York.

At the cathedral, the clergy and parishioners of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA gave Bishop John a traditional bread-and-salt welcome. After that, a thanksgiving was said. On behalf of all those present archpriest George Konyev greeted their new archpastor, wished him God's help in his important ministry and assured Bishop John of the clerics' willingness to help him in every way possible. Archpriest Seraphim Gan, chancellor of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, greeted Bishop John on behalf of bishops, clergy, and laypeople of the ROCOR's parishes in the USA.

Bishop John cordially thanked the clerics and laypeople for the warm welcome and expressed his confidence that only such unity and love, which he had felt during his meeting and common prayer with the clergy and laypeople at the cathedral, could be a foundation of the life of the community both of St Nicholas Cathedral in New York and all Patriarchal parishes in the USA. He conveyed to the faithful a primatial blessing from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia who has always been attentive to the activities of his parishes in the United States of America. Bishop John told those present that the day before, on August 5, he had prayed at the Donskoy Stavropegic Monastery in Moscow with his predecessor, former Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA, Archbishop Justinian, before the holy relics of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, pleading with the saint to bless his future archpastoral ministry in America.