Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

RELEASE NUMBER 2012.9.1

35th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery

April 3, 2012

Beloved Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers:

Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!

With profound joy and gratitude to God, I invite you to celebrate with me a milestone in the history of Orthodox Christian monastic spirituality in North America. On Saturday and Sunday, August 25-26, 2012, this national celebration of Orthodox monasticism will be marked by a threefold commemoration:

- > 35th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York;
- > 40th Anniversary of the reception of its Abbess, Mother Raphaela, into the monastic life;
- > 50th Anniversary of one of its nuns, Mother Michaela, to the monastic tonsure.

The schedule for the weekend's events will be as follows:

Saturday, August 25, 2012

9:30 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated by members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America; at Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton NY



Banquet to follow, at Saint Michael's Center (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese), 296 Clinton Street, Binghamton NY

5:00 P.M. Supper, at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, 144 Bert Washburn Road, Otego, NY

6:00 P.M. Vigil, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Michael, at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery

Sunday, August 26, 2012

10:00 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Michael; at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery.



I ask that you begin publicizing these events in your parishes, encouraging your faithful to attend part or all of the celebration, and to personally make every effort to participate in as many of these festivities as you can. Let us express our thanks to God for blessing our Diocese with this ascetical "oasis" in our midst, by joining together in prayer and fellowship with our beloved Mother and sisters in Christ.

Further information regarding Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery can be found by visiting their website ~ www.myrrhbearersmonastery.blogspot.com

~ or by calling them at (607) 432-3179. I look forward to seeing you during the course of this very special celebration!

Devotedly yours in His service,

+ MICHAEL

Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey