

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

RELEASE NUMBER 2010.15.1

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop +Michael, a newly established **Diaconal Formation program** for the diocese will be inaugurated on September 11, 2010. Information about the on-going program schedule and agenda is conveyed in a flyer delivered to all clergy of the diocese along with this release via email, and it is available on the diocesan webpage <http://nynjoca.org/> together with this release.

The **Diaconal Formation program** will be conducted in collaboration with Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. All classes and instruction will take place at the Endicott Campus located at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY. The program has been created and designed specifically for the education, training, and instruction of candidates endorsed by parish rectors for potential ordination to the Holy Diaconate for ministry in the local (home) parish of origin. The program is modeled after a successful and time-tested program functioning in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. Students completing the two-year program and course of study will be awarded a "*Certificate in Diaconal Formation*" with transferable academic credit should the individual decide to enter as a full-time student at Saint Tikhon's Seminary. While all students completing the program will have met certain requisites for ordination to the diaconate, it must be noted that this program does not guarantee anyone's ordination; many other factors and considerations are involved, and all students will be advised and counseled accordingly.

To date, nine (9) candidates for entry into the program have been endorsed by their respective parish rectors. Additional endorsements of candidates or questions from parish rectors should be sent directly to the program coordinator, Archpriest Alexey Karlgut (ayk0@yahoo.com).

The **Diaconal Formation program** will commence with a formal “kick-off” retreat for all approved students on **Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Endicott NY**. The retreat will begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. followed by orientation, presentations, and program review/planning. The retreat will conclude with Great Vespers at 6:00 p.m.

Rectors who have already endorsed candidates for the program should provide contact information (address, phone, email) for the students to Father Karlgut as soon as possible. Obviously, they must also share the program details contained in this release (and related program flyer) with their candidates.

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