Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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The Diaconal Formation Program of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey begins its second full year (third semester) on Saturday, September 17, 2010 with a hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Michael at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Endicott NY. In addition to students continuing their two-year course of study, several new students from throughout the diocese are expected to enter the program this year. Most of the students travel a great distance to participate. At the beginning of the program last year, Bishop Michael reminded the students that in addition to learning how to be deacons, it was important that they "know Christ" -- that they grow to love Him more, to serve Him better, and thus be effective in their diaconal vocation.

The Diaconal Formation Program is conducted in collaboration between the diocese and Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary (South Canaan PA). All classes and instruction 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. 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.

For information and additional details, contact:

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