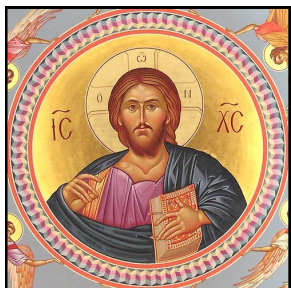


## DEANERY NEWS - ORDINATIONS



### TONSURED AS A READER

Maximos Murray (Belfast)

### TO THE SUBDIACONATE

Cowey Barbour, Christopher Parsons (both serving in London) and John Hickey (Dublin).

At Whirlow Grange on Wednesday 15th July 2009

## COMING SOON

- The Editor maintains a website entitled: **“Orthodox Christianity for Absolute Beginners”** and that just about explains what it is and does. For some time now this has been an advertising supported site but some of those ads have now become inappropriate so the site is being renewed, redesigned and revamped. It will soon be relaunched (early September 2009 if not before) at this address:-

<http://www.orthodoxresource.co.uk>

- With the continuing growth of the Deanery, the **Deanery Directory of Parishes** has outgrown its leaflet format. From January 2010 and annually thereafter it is planned to publish a Directory in booklet form with a good deal more interesting information on a 1000 copy print run for a minimal charge. Most of the budget will be met by Church advertising ... So if you run a business and would like an A5 (£100) or half A5 (£50) advert in the first issue, please contact me at [orthodox@clara.net](mailto:orthodox@clara.net). Metropolitan Saba's office will be kindly and professionally printing the booklet in gloss colour. More details in the next issue of Cornerstone.

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THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX DEANERY  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

## CORNERSTONE

NUMBER 69 ■ AUTUMN 2009



### Special Report

## THE DEANERY CONFERENCE



*“O Christ our God Who wast voluntarily lifted up on the Cross, grant Thy mercies to Thy new people named after Thee. Gladden with Thy power Orthodox Christians and give them victory over their enemies. May they have as an ally that invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.”*

**Kontakion for the  
Exaltation of the Precious  
and Life-Giving Cross**

14th September

Picture Caption:- Deanery  
Conference 2009  
Participants, Whirlow Grange

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### “Let us lift up our hearts!”

The Annual British and Irish Deanery Conference met at Whirlow Grange Conference Centre near Sheffield from 13th to the 15th of July, presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan John of the Antiochian Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe with honoured guests, His Eminence Metropolitan Saba of the Archdiocese of Bosra Hauran, Jabal Al Arab and all the Golan and Father Parthenios Allati, all of whom delivered lectures on the Conference theme:- “Liturgical Celebrations.”

With the many different cultures, languages and traditions represented both within the Archdiocese and



Metropolitan Saba



Fr. Parthenios



Conference Participants

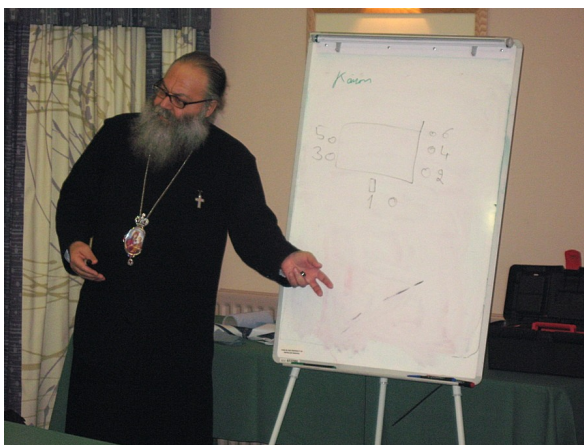
the Deanery itself it has become especially necessary for liturgical practice to reflect certain basic common features of the Antiochian patrimony whilst providing also for a necessary diversity particular to the situation and needs of each part and place.

The three conference speakers covered these issues admirably with both learning and pastoral sensitivity to the holy offering of the people of God. The Deanery thought itself richly blessed to have in its bishop an archpastor with true insight and experienced guidance in these matters. In Metropolitan Saba we had a man of God who had similar gifts of understanding acquired in leading the renaissance of his own Archdiocese during the last 10 years of his residency in Sweida. The learning of Fr. Parthenios complemented the richness of this lectureship team beautifully.

In the worship of these three days, Sayedna John ordained three men to the subdiaconate; Cowey Barbour, Christopher Parsons (both serving in London) and John Hickey (Dublin). He also tonsured Maximos Murray as a Reader (Belfast).

The wisdom, holy love and joy of these three days for a number of Deanery members to meet with our Metropolitan over an extended period was a real blessing; the first, God willing, we are sure, of many more to come.

**Editor (below, Metropolitan John)**



"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:3-4)

### FROM THE DESERT FATHERS ON OBEDIENCE

#### Abba John the Dwarf

*It was said of Abba John the Dwarf that he withdrew and lived in the desert at Scetis with an old man of Thebes. His Abba, taking a piece of dry wood, planted it and said to him, 'Water it every day with a bottle of water, until it bears fruit.' Now the water was so far away that he had to leave in the evening and return the following morning. At the end of three years the wood came to life and bore fruit. Then the old man took some of the fruit and carried it to the church saying to the brethren, 'Take and eat the fruit of obedience.'*

### GOD IS GLORIFIED IN HIS CREATION

The Oak and Elm, the Spruce and Pine  
Larch and Yew have nurtured time.  
Garlanded by the meadow flower  
That knows its own appointed hour.  
Attended by the humble herb  
Whose fragrances installed to kerb  
Human passions' wilder powers.  
No lecture, just a whispered hint  
From wise sage, basil, thyme and mint.  
*God is glorified in His Creation*

Where mountains reach the speckled dome  
Swift and eagle find their home.  
Yawning valleys greet the dawn  
And gaping caves in darkness spawn  
Spiders, flatworms, snails and bats.  
The nettle, bee and tiny gnats  
Bite and sting our mortal pride.  
Thick forest hides reclusive deer  
Retreat of wolf, wild boar and bear.  
*God is glorified in His Creation*

No fabricated holy fable  
Framed the mouse, the grouse and sable.  
Great creatures swarming in the sea  
Were caused like you and me, to be.  
The Artist of the Universe  
The Poet of the Book and verse  
Shares His nature in the world  
Let creatures all His name endorse  
And Heaven and earth declare the source.  
*God is glorified in His Creation*

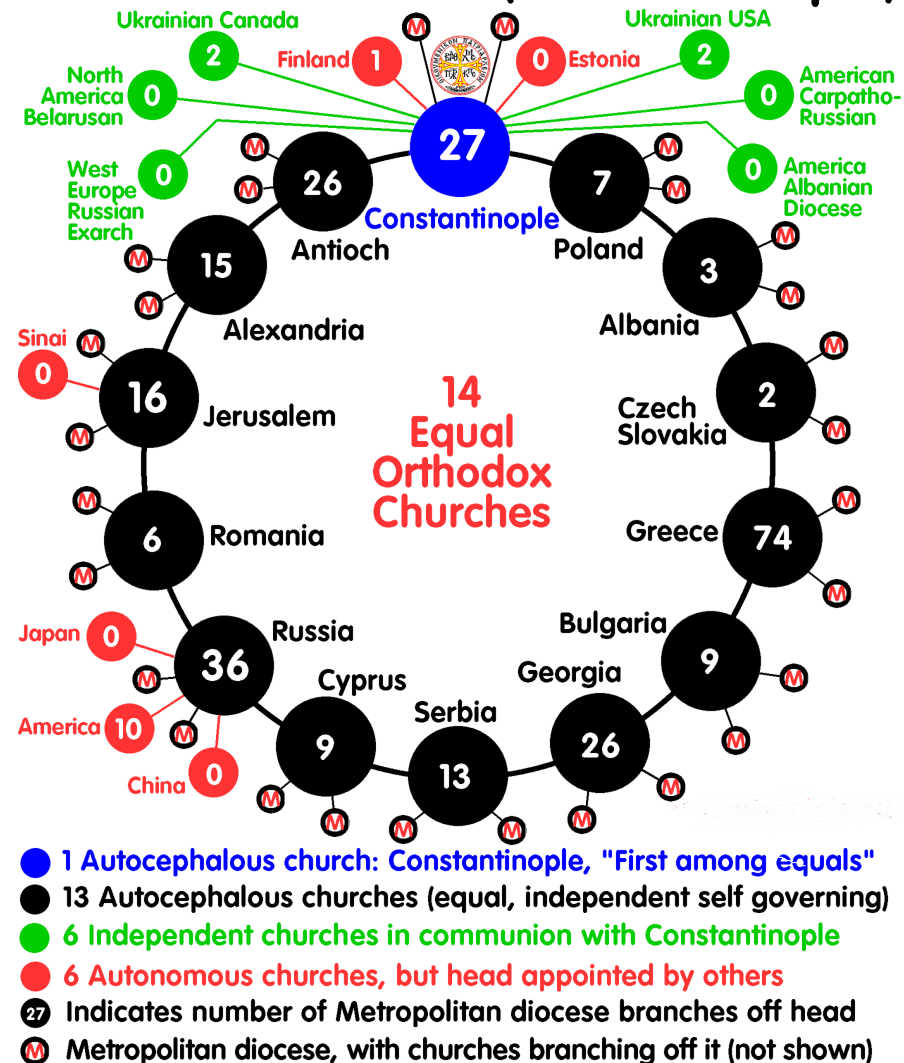
**Fr. Jonathan**



# ORGANISATION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

*This diagram may be slightly inaccurate from time to time and contested by some churches in detail (eg., OCA, Czech/Slovakia) but on the whole it is a fair picture.*

## Hierarchy of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches (Constantinople)



"... In the worship of these three days, Sayedna John ordained three men to the subdiaconate; Cowey Barbour, Christopher Parsons (both serving in London) and John Hickey (Dublin). He also tonsured Maximos Murray as a Reader (Belfast).



# PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

IV Pre-Conciliar Pan-orthodox Conference  
Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
Chambésy, 6th – 12th June 2009



## EXTRACT FROM THE COMMUNIQUE

The theme of the 4th Pre-Conciliar Panorthodox Conference was, in accordance with the will of the Primates and the representatives of the local Orthodox Churches, as expressed in the Message of their Holy Synaxis at the Phanar (October, 2008), the discussion of the subject of the canonical organization of the Orthodox Diaspora. The relevant decision regarding the agenda was agreed upon by the Conference at the opening of its proceedings.

The Conference examined the texts prepared by the Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Committee in its conferences at Chambésy, namely: a) from November 10-17, 1990; and b) from November 7-13, 1993; as well as the document of the Conference of Canon Lawyers held in Chambésy from April 9th to 14th, 1995. These texts, together with the relevant clarifications, supplements, corrections and additions, were unanimously agreed upon.

The Conference expressed the common desire of all Orthodox Churches for a solution to the problem of the canonical organization of the Orthodox Diaspora, in accordance with the ecclesiology, canonical tradition and practice of the Orthodox Church. The Conference decided to establish new Bishops Assemblies in certain regions throughout the world in order to resolve the problem of the Diaspora, namely for the Orthodox faithful that have settled outside the traditional boundaries of the local Orthodox Churches. The Presidents of these Assemblies are the primate hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in that region or, in their absence, the next in order of the Church Diptychs.

The members of these Assemblies include all those recognized by all Orthodox Churches as canonical bishops, who shepherd the existing communities in each region. The mission of the Bishops Assemblies is the proclamation and promotion of the unity of the Orthodox Church, the common pastoral ministry to the Orthodox faithful of the region, as well as their common witness to the world. The decisions of the Bishops Assemblies are made on the basis of the principle of unanimity of the Churches, which are represented therein by bishops.

The Conference also approved – by means of clarifications, corrections and additions – the draft Regulation of how the Bishops Assemblies would function, whereby the fundamental principles of organization and operation.

The remaining issues of the Holy and Great Council, namely the manner of proclamation of Autocephaly and Autonomy, as well as the order of the Diptychs, will be examined in the following Conferences of Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Committees and will be submitted to the next Pre-Conciliar Panorthodox Conference for approval.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

See Page 6 for an explanatory diagram >>>

We should give thanks to God that the Orthodox Church is finally showing signs of getting to grips with the problem of overlapping jurisdictions of bishops where these exist. “Jurisdiction” of course refers to the oversight of a local bishop so this is essentially a matter for the bishops of all the Orthodox churches to resolve. However, they cannot do this alone because we do not constitute a “top-down” Church. The people of our respective churches will need to work closely with their hierarchs in order to bring administrative unity and sobornost to the whole. If our bishops are resolved to see ethnic diversity as a blessing of unity rather than as a pretext for the enclosure of phyletism then so should we. I do make two pleas though. For all its technical aspects, please do let us drop this term “*diaspora*.” I haven’t moved here from anywhere else nor do I consider my bishop to be anything other than my local bishop. Secondly, let us drop these diocesan names that refer to cities outside those locales where our bishops actually reside and minister. The days when we had to be circumspect about this ecumenically truly must be over now mustn’t they? **EDITOR**