



# CHURCH NEWS

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The next issue of "Church News" will be unfortunately somewhat delayed as the Editor in Chief intends to spend from mid-August to the end of September in Russia. We apologize to our readers for this inconvenience.

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## FROM LIFE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

In connection with several official declarations made by the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia as well as another made by His Grace Bishop Evtikhy of Ishima (see "Pravoslavnyaya Rus" # 7(1628) of April 1/14, 1999) regarding the war in Kosovo, Russians, especially those within Russia, were greatly disturbed by those declarations and have written a protest which was published by the bulletin "Vertograd-Info" in issue # 5 (50) 1999. Below we reprint this letter written by zealots for the Faith.

### LETTER FROM THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESE OF THE ROCOR

To His Grace, the Right Rev. Michael, Bishop of Toronto, Bishop of the St. Petersburg and North Russian Diocese of the ROCOR

Copy: To the Synod of Bishops of the ROCOR

Your Grace!

We, the undersigned priests and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in St. Petersburg, would like to inform you of a temptation that has crept into the midst of our St. Petersburg flock following the publication of certain documents of the Synod of our Church in connection with developments in Serbia. In two of these documents the official Church of Serbia and her ecumenist hierarchy are regarded as the lawful and true Church and an episcopate with which our Church has canonical Communion.

In one of the prayers of the litanies proposed by the Synod, it is suggested that "*The Orthodox Episcopate of the Church of Serbia, its clergy and flock*" (Emph. by "Ch. N.") be commemorated. Not only does this wording identify the ecumenist hierarchy of the Church of Serbia with the "Orthodox Episcopate of the Persecuted Church of Russia" for which our Church has prayed at all times in her history; it makes praying for our soul-mates, True Orthodox Christians in Serbia, impossible, as they are not part of the "clergy and flock" of Serbia's ecumenist bishops.

The "Statement" adopted at the meeting of our Synod on April 28th and undersigned by His Eminence the Metropolitan and all members of the Synod, including Your Grace, goes so far as to proclaim our ecclesiastical communion with Serb ecumenists who are not only actively involved in the anti-Christian World Council of Churches, but also maintain an intimate relationship with our chief persecutor -- the Moscow Patriarchate. "We give our brotherly kiss to the Hierarchs and clergy of the suffering Church of Serbia," reads the Statement, "let them extend their saintly prayers on our behalf, as we do sympathize with their great grief and mourning." To the best of our knowledge *this is the first instance of our Church Episcopal Council requesting the "holy prayers" of a member of the World Council of Churches.* (Emph. by "Ch. N.")

We do understand and share in the brotherly bond with the Serbian people being subjected to unjustified violence by the proponents of the God-abominated new world order. However, we do not appreciate it when our brotherly national sentiment is to the detriment of the firm canonical stance of our Church which it has always been renown. We will not tolerate our Church being dragged into the apostatic world Christianity -- a manifestation of the Ecumenical Movement -- under the guise of sympathy with the brotherly people of Serbia.

Both of the above mentioned documents of our Synod imply that we are in canonical communion with the official Church of Serbia, and this is the cause of the temptation in our midst. We are unable to use in good faith the above supplication formula for the official Church of Serbia in our prayers. Observing the response of our flock, we have noticed that some parishioners now reject the Eucharist at a service in which bishops signing the "Statement" are commemorated. Whatever we make of this rejection on the part of some of our children, we cannot help but agree with them that *communion with the official Church of Serbia would be no better than communion with the Moscow Patriarchate.* (Emph. by "Ch. N.") We must not suffer the faithful children of our Church to leave her. We must not suffer a new schism. It is not too late to stop the spreading temptation sown by certain imprudent phrasing which is far from representative of the opinion of the entirety of our Church. It behooves us, Your Grace, to zealously seek your assistance in petitioning the Synod of our Church which, as we firmly believe, will not remain aloof to the sensibilities of its Russian flock, to release an official clarification regarding our Church's stance vis-à-vis the ecumenist official Church of Serbia. Such a clarification would satisfy us that our Church does not have, and has never had, any canonical communion with a member of the World Council of Churches.

The humble servants of your Grace:

Archpriest Vladimir Savitzky, Priest Alexander Shchipakin and 11 other signatories.

A footnote: From this letter of the clergy and lay people of St. Petersburg's parish in Russia, it is obvious that the parishes of the ROCOR are still commemorated as "the Orthodox Episcopate of the Persecuted Church of Russia", while unfortunately by us abroad at the beginning of 90's through a decree of the Council of Bishops the word "persecuted"

was abolished and by now in the majority of parishes (including the Synod Cathedral in New York City) is commemorated as just the "Orthodox Episcopate of the Russian Church." This (excluding the name of the Moscow Patriarch) sounds very much like the commemoration used by their "leadership."

#### NUMERICAL GROWTH OF THE GERMAN DIOCESE

The magazine "Pravoslavnyaya Rus" ("Orthodox Rus") in issue # 9 of May 1/14 published a talk given by his Grace Archbishop Mark at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville.

At the beginning of his address to the seminarians, Archbishop Mark urged them to appreciate the rare opportunity to get an ecclesiastical education and said: "It is easy to criticize everything, but very hard to do things differently." Archbishop Mark with sadness directed the attention of his listeners to the fact that he noticed that seminarians rarely attend the daily services and said that they will "never have such abundance of a practical church experience and church piety" which "could be for them a base for future pastoral life."

Unfortunately, this year the Church will not gain a single priest from the small graduating class.

Then Archbishop Mark spoke about his own diocese.

After the end of World War II many refugees left Germany and settled in other countries, so that when evaluating the situation of some 10 to 15 years ago, Archbishop Mark considered the necessity to close about half of than existing parishes because of shortage of parishioners. There were parishes in which services were held only once a month, and maximum once in three weeks and those were attended by no more than 25 to 35 people.

However, now the situation has drastically changed for the better, but also created its own problems, because the composition of many parishes has almost completely changed, being supplemented by new arrivals from Russia, but also this is not a simple matter since the majority of those people live in mixed marriages with non-Russians. There are also recent German converts to Orthodoxy. Previously it was a struggle to have children in parochial schools speak Russian, but by now this problem has solved itself.

The diocese has German priests who learned how to serve in Church Slavonic, but they are not able to hear confessions and instruct Russian parishioners. The total ignorance of those people of church services and even the basics of churchly life create another difficulty. Trying to correct this defect, Archbishop Mark started giving talks after services and explaining to parishioners the basics of Orthodoxy.

The financial situation of the new arrivals is very difficult and in an entire diocese there are only 5 or 6 parishes which are able to support their pastor while in others priests have to have outside work, nevertheless, a few new parishes have been opened and two of them are even building churches.

According to information given by Archbishop Mark one of the subjects in German schools is religion; therefore, children have no choice: if they are registered as Orthodox they have to study Orthodox religion in parochial schools.

It is interesting, that the study of religion in German public schools was arranged by Archbishop Mark's predecessors, but this privilege was extended only to members of the ROCOR although in Germany there are many Orthodox Greeks and Serbs. But it is only recently, during the last 5 years, that this law was extended to cover also other Orthodox. The German school administrations accept the grades given by Orthodox priests, but this also demands from them additional efforts while they are already overloaded with their regular duties and have to travel to various distant parishes.

From this talk it is obvious that Archbishop Mark is leading his diocese in a great missionary effort and he deserves gratitude not only on part of his flock, but also from Russians in general.

#### FROM THE LIFE OF THE LATVIAN FREE CHURCH

The Latvian Free Church which for 5 years now still has not been recognized legally in the so-called "democratic republic" now is receiving direct threats.

We learn from documents we have received, "the leading artist of the city," S. Linarte, sent to Daugavpilss Council and Daugavpilss police administration a letter in which he declared that "from the artistic point of view, an icon hanging outside and *which I have ordered removed before May 1, 1999*, does not correspond to the requirements for the exterior of buildings. During the very same *schedule it is necessary to cover the cross by dull paint instead of shiny metallic trimming*". (Emph. by "Ch. N.")

In accordance with this demand of "the leading artist of the city", the chief of Daugavpilss city administration, B. Goudakovsky, also gave orders to "bring to order the front of the building and take off from its walls the illegally placed symbols, crosses, and plaques which are attached to the front of the building and which were placed there without permission of the Department of Buildings and without the approval of a writ by the Buildings Department (Emph. by "Ch. N.")

The "illegally placed symbols" are nothing but the outer and inner walls of a beautifully appointed main church of the Latvian Free Church in Daugavpils, which previously was known as Dvinsk.

The Latvian "democratic" republic demonstrates her democratic convictions more and more!

#### A NECESSARY RETRACTION REGARDING EARLIER INFORMATION ABOUT POCHAYEV LAVRA

The newspaper "Russkii Vestnik" ("The Russian Herald") in the issue # 12-13 published a "Declaration of the Union of Orthodox Brotherhoods" in which the following information was given: "The UoOB apologises for involuntary misinformation about a handing over of the Dormition Cathedral to the Uniates. There was no such order by L. Kuchma. This incorrect information was given to us by an Archimandrite Isidor, who arrived in Moscow and presented himself as the head of a skete in Pochayev Lavra. Respect for ecclesiastical rank and a possibility of such actions by Ukrainian authorities in the context of the anti-Orthodox and anti-Russian policy led giving credence to this misinformation. In the Pochayev Lavra, as we were informed, there is no archimandrite in the skete.

At the same time we believe that such misunderstandings are a result of the information blockade in which the Moscow Patriarchate exists..."

One wonders: what was the intent of this disinformation?

#### SERBIAN BISHOP ARTEMIJE TO LEAVE KOSOVO

According to information on the Internet, Serbian Bishop Artemije had to leave Prizren, which is located in Kosovo. The NATO bombing had barely stopped when units of the Albanian "Liberation" Army started to brutalize the remaining Serbs in those areas. German troops, which entered Prizren took precautionary measures to guard the diocesan center outside as well as inside. The Germans even suggested that Bishop Artemije bring his books to the basement, because a hand grenade thrown through the window might damage them, but he at that time did not take this too seriously. However, very soon the Germans recommended that he leave for Prishtina, because they can not guarantee his safety in Prizren. Therefore, Bishop Artemije with 9 priests and 200 Serbs who were taking refuge in the seminary building left the city.

On June 14th, 12 monks were forced to leave their Holy Trinity Monastery (15th century) in Musutishte, which was burned down by the Albanians. According to available information, the Albanians destroyed 13 churches in the area of the monastery Visoki Dechani.

As Bishop Artemije said: "We survived here for five centuries during the Ottoman Empire and two world wars. But the [Serb] people never had to live in their villages and towns like this -- and all this under the so-called protection of the UN and NATO."

The Serbian Church is trying to persuade her flock not to leave the places where they are, but by now it is quite obvious that the NATO occupation troops are not able to handle the chaos they themselves created in the country, while the Albanians quite openly brag that they are the future main authorities in Kosovo and that there will be a merciless slaughter of the remaining Serbian population and destruction of Orthodox churches and monasteries.

The famous monastery in Pech is also under siege, which is a stavropigial monastery of the Serbian Patriarch. The Albanians surrounded it with their hoard. Bishop Artemije and Metropolitan Amflohije turned for help to the occupation army authorities, but there was no reaction on their part.

"The Wall Street Journal" on June 24 published an extensive article in which analyzed in details the relations between Serbian Church and government of the Communist Milosevic, who seized power in 1987. In the beginning of this period, the Serbian Church had quite good relations with Milosevic, by not raising her voice against godless Communism and in return enjoyed relative freedom. But now, when it is obvious that the government of Milosevic might be very short lived, Patriarch Paul made a slightly belated announcement, published in "The New York Times" on June 29th: "If the only way to create a greater Serbia is by crime, then I do not accept that, and let that Serbia disappear. And also if lesser Serbia can only survive by crime, let it also disappear. And if all the Serbs had to die and only I remained and I could live only by crime, then I would not accept that."

One of the very best bishops of the Serbian Church, Artemije of Rashka and Prizren, expressed himself in a similar spirit by declaring: "We are both aware, as God knows, how much evil has been done in the course of the last year and especially in the last three months. The great part of the guilt lies with Milosevic." Although, according to as yet unverified facts, the Serbian Synod beginning with 1992 criticized Milosevic's policies, but this was not publicized at that time.

At one of the recent councils of the bishops of the Serbian Church Bishop Artemije in a very Orthodox way criticized the ecumenist heresy and demanded that the Serbian Church leave the World Council of Churches, but when it became clear that he is totally alone among his brother bishops, Bishop Artemije did not decide to leave the Serbian ecumenist hierarchy and, together with all "the Orthodox Churches" is awaiting a resolution which is to be prepared after

three years of studies by a committee created by the WCC. This committee then will give its recommendations to the "fullness of the Orthodox Church" as to how to relate to the ecumenist heresy. During those three years, all the "Orthodox" members of the WCC (under very strong pressure of their truly Orthodox "lower echelons") decided to stop concelebration with Western heretics.

When comparing the situation of the Orthodox Church under the Communist yoke in Russia and Yugoslavia, one notices that in the very first years of the establishment in Russia of the atheist Communist regime, Patriarch Tikhon anathematized the godless Communists and all those who collaborated with them and, as soon as the treason of Metropolitan Sergius who sold out the Church's liberty became known, almost immediately led by the majority of the best of the episcopate of the Russian Church, there arose a powerful movement against it, which later became known as the Catacomb Church or the Tikhon Church. Unfortunately, nothing similar happened in the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The Serbian Church, which suffered from persecutions by the atheists far less than the Russian Church, in no way opposed the participation of her own Patriarch Herman in the Ecumenical Movement and even his position as one of the Presidents of the WCC. The hierarchy of the Serbian Church has not found enough spiritual strength to, like the Russian Church, create within herself a anti-Communist and anti-ecumenist national movement, although she has some true martyrs. During slightly more than 50 years of power of Communism in Yugoslavia, there was never heard abroad a single courageous voice from members of the Serbian hierarchy against atheism and Ecumenism.

While wholeheartedly sympathizing with the Serbian national tragedy, one still should not close one's eyes to the doubtlessly compromised hierarchy of this Church.

#### JEWES DEMAND THAT CROSSES BE REMOVED FROM AUSCHWITZ

A conflict about crosses installed near the walls of a former German concentration camp has lasted for several years.

The Jewish religious community demands that the crosses be removed because supposedly only their co-religionists perished in this camp and crosses for Jews are offensive. The Poles insist that not only Jews were the victims of the Nazis, but the Poles themselves, as well as gypsies and others.

Yielding to Jewish demands the Polish government ordered that a distance of at least hundred meters be kept between the camp and displayed religious symbols.

Yet, this measure did not satisfy the Jews while the Catholics not only had to close their Carmelite convent close to the camp, but also recently remove some 300 crosses, which were installed by Polish zealots. The police removed all the crosses, but there remained one, 7 meters high, which a few years ago was installed by the Pope.

A head of the Jewish community in Poland, Jerzy Kichler said that the Jews have nothing against the Cross per se, but (as he explained) a Jew is not supposed to pray while seeing religious symbols of another religion.

During a recent visit of the Pope to Poland, the Chief Rabbi Menachem Joskowitz managed to get past all the serious obstacles and quite unexpectedly appeared in front of the Pope, whom he addressed as "Mr. Pope." The rabbi asked the Pope for the favor that he intervene with the Polish government for removal of the very last cross near the camp.

As the "Jewish Press" newspaper reported on June 18th, Jaskowicz said: "I would like to ask Mr. Pope to urge his people to take the last cross out of the camp so that the Jews who come here can say their final prayer before dying."

The local Jews in general agreed with the rabbi's request, but also were troubled that the manner of addressing Pope might be interpreted as a personal insult. "The New York Times" wrote on June 12th, "To address the Pope in that way was embarrassing to all of us, and it was seen by everyone."

The "Jewish Press" on June 25th published an excuse made by Rabbi Joskewicz in which he said that "the newspapers in the United States made a big deal over my use of the title 'Mr.' instead of 'your Holiness' or 'your Eminence'. But I had no choice. I couldn't, as a religious Jew, call a person of another religion holy, so I used the same greeting that I would have used if I were to meet President Clinton."

#### SOME MORE ABOUT THE HIERARCHS OF THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE

In the last issue of "Church News" for May-June we reported on the highly degenerate conduct of the Moscow Patriarchate's hierarch Bishop Nikon of Yekaterinburg. His dirty adventures (to the shame of the Moscow Patriarchate) were published not only by the newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda" ("Komsomol's Truth") of May 7th and several other papers, but even in the ecumenist press, in particular, in the "Ecumenical News International," dated June 2nd.

Yet now, the newspaper "Rus Pravoslavnyaya" ("Orthodox Rus") in issue # 4 (22), 1999, relates another case, little different from the previous one, about Alexis (Kutepov), Archbishop of Alma-ata and Semipalatinsk. The beginning of this article resembles in tone the information we published previously. "Our concern for the future of church in our Alma-atinsk-Semipalatinsk Diocese forces us, the clergy of this diocese to turn to the newspaper 'Rus Pravoslavnyaya' for

support and publication of outrageous facts of the well-planned annihilation of Orthodoxy in our diocese. Because the letter, which was sent to His Holiness Patriarch Alexis II in February of 1998, did not result in an adequate reaction to rectify the dangerous situation in our diocese." As stated previously, the editors refer to the need to publish material they have received due to fact that "Bishop Alexis started in his diocese an overt persecution of the zealots of Orthodoxy" and states that "it is publishing just a part of the material which is in our possession."

As is obvious from this report, the main complaint of the clergy is that their archbishop openly advocates the necessity of uniting with Roman-Catholics and also accepts the "branch theory" (actually an Anglican idea) according to which Orthodoxy, Catholicism and Anglicans exist in equality since all come from the same root, he claims. Two full pages of this newspaper are devoted to the ecumenist's theme: partly it is a transcript of a dialogue between an Orthodox journalist and a Catholic priest, and then also a dialogue of the archbishop and a deacon Alexander Lisikov, who was defending Orthodox principles. He and a number of other priests were immediately suspended by this archbishop. The editors of "Rus Pravoslavnaya" appeal to their readers to help those zealot clergy who were literally thrown into the street. One page of this newspaper published a few amazing photographs: one of them shows Archbishop Alexis sitting at a separate table with the Catholic cleric, another photograph depicts a Catholic priest fully vested in front of his altar in the Catholic church and next to him sits a very small dog, but worst of all is a photograph of the archbishop himself in a white cassock and riassa who... *is dancing with a woman!* This photograph has a caption: "after a drinking-bout he dances with the ladies until morning." It is so outrageously unique that as an exception we are reproducing it from "Rus Pravoslavnaya."



The very same newspaper published a reprint from the paper "Caravan" of December 12, 1998, in which Archbishop Alexis while mentioning the Muslim President Nazarbayev said that "our society has two pillars: Islam and Orthodoxy... This is a heritage we received from previous centuries, previous generations... By all means, Nazarbayev is a man selected by God. The Lord is with him and above him... He was twice in the Vatican, twice he spoke with the Pope. This is very important..."

The paper also states that Archbishop Alexis is not only known for his ecumenist convictions. He is also a seducer of the wife of his own archpriest. He purchased a house for his mistress and "has met" with her for at least five years.

#### PROBLEMS IN JERUSALEM

A newspaper "In Jerusalem" dated May 28th reported that in connection with preparations for 2 millennia of Christianity and the expected large number of pilgrims, the Israeli government is very much concerned that the Holy Sepulchre Church has no additional exit in case of need, for example, a fire.

As a result there was a meeting between a representative of the Ministry for Religions and the clergy representing the Holy Sepulchre Church in order to persuade them to add an additional exit. Although it was expected that all is to be finished before the arrival of the pilgrims, the Israeli government representatives complain that this problem remains unresolved although the plans for it were prepared five years ago. For a long time the church has had

only one very wide wooden door serving simultaneously as entrance and exit. This entrance has been guarded since the Middle Ages by members of the same Muslim family.

According to the Minister for Tourism, the Holy Sepulchre already has problems even before the jubilee year arrives, because there are annually 750,000 tourists which means about 15,000 people daily. The Israeli government even offered the money for another exit door, but is met with silent opposition by the church's administration, which is composed of Greeks, Copts, Armenians, Catholics, Syrians and Ethiopians. Greeks maintain the main part of the church and others may serve in various parts of it. The Turks made such divisions in the Holy Sepulchre Church in 1850, under whose rule Jerusalem was at that time.

It seems that the Orthodox just delay in replying to the Israeli government representative, while the Armenians have filed a strong protest, insisting that a new exit door will make a change in the existing "status quo" as the delicate balance among the groups is known.

When reporters asked the Minister for Christian Religions when will the work begin, he answered: "I don't expect any specific date. This is the Middle East!"

### A CALL FOR AUTOCEPHALY IN AMERICA

According to information from the Internet posted on June 23 there was a meeting of the Society of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA) in New York in which all the members of this organization participated. The main question to be resolved was the expected arrival in the USA of the Antioch Patriarch Ignatius and his being invited to the administrative center of the Antiochian Patriarchate in America in the state of Pennsylvania. The focus of the meeting was the question of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America, which seeks to unite ALL the existing Orthodox Churches within her. According to the Internet information, provided by Nicholas Czaruk, the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archbishop Spyridon, was "greatly shaken" by all this. It was expected that at the meeting which was scheduled for June 24th the Greek Archdiocese in New York will vote "no confidence" in its leader.

The chief editor of the of the official publication of the Romanian Church "Solia," Bishop Nathanael, in the May issue published an article which described the situation in Serbia which united all the Orthodox in the sympathy for the Serbs and on the other hand it became clear that the West not only disregards opinions of the Orthodox people, but even have no stature as group. Therefore, Bishop Nathanael declared that "we must have a Patriarch as all civilized Orthodox nations have. Someone to stand face-to-face with the civil authority of this land!"

After explaining to the readers that the SCOBA has no weight in government circles and within its own Patriarchate this organization is looked upon with suspicion and prejudice, Bishop Nathanael said that "there is no reason for not having an autocephalous Church in America of Orthodox Christians with a Patriarch heading a Holy Synod, with schools, institutions, monasteries and parishes."

The Antiochian Patriarchate is the most modernized among all the existing Church representations in America. A movement to establish a patriarchate in America undoubtedly would meet with strong opposition in first place by the Greeks, which is the richest Church in the USA. Probably this plan will not meet with approval also from the other patriarchates because they financially very much depend on their exarchates in America. The establishment of a patriarchate in America inevitably would deprive all the Mother Churches almost totally of the income they receive from their exarchates. Just a short while ago, the Greek Archbishop Iakovos paid by losing his position for suggesting the need for an American Patriarchate. Archbishop Spyridon, who was sent to replace him, acted very undiplomatically and in a short while managed to set the majority of clergy and lay people against him. It would be not surprising that if this enterprise would come about every autocephalous and autonomous Orthodox Church would see a schism.

The former North American Metropolia would find herself in the most peculiar situation since she separated from the ROCOR when in the 70's she received her "autocephality" from the Moscow Patriarchate and which calls herself "The Orthodox Church in America." She is a member in the SCOBA organization, but her autocephaly has yet to be recognized by anyone else. Crafty Constantinople talks politely, but categorically refuses to concelebrate and following this example, the other Patriarchates do not concelebrate with the Metropolia, with the exception, of course, of the Moscow Patriarchate which granted her the autocephality. At that time it was very profitable for government of the USSR to have legal centers for their agents .

### THE ROMAN POPE ON MUSLIMS

The newspaper "The Christian News" of June 7th published an article with a quotation from the Papal declarations regarding the Vatican's extensive "dialogues" with all sorts of religions and the Muslims in particular.

Speaking during the his general audience on May 5th, the Pope declared: "We Christians joyfully recognize the religious values we have in common with Islam. Today I would like to repeat what I said to young Muslims some years ago in Casablanca: 'We believe in the same God, the one God, the living God, the God who created the world and brings

His creatures to their perfection...' The Christian and Muslim traditions both have a long history of study, philosophical and theological reflection, literature and science, which have left their mark on Eastern and Western cultures. The worship of the one God Creator of all, encourages us to increase our knowledge of one another.

In today's world where God is tragically forgotten, Christians and Muslims are called in one spirit of love to defend and always promote human dignity, moral values and freedom. The common pilgrimage to eternity must be expressed in prayer, fasting, and charity, but also in joint efforts for peace and justice, for human advancement."

While trying to find as much as possible that is common to both Christians and Muslims, the Pope casually mentioned the doctrine of Holy Trinity and the veneration of Holy Virgin by low class Muslims.

Islam is probably the fastest spreading faith in the world and in particular in the America. Just recently one of the American newspapers reported that the city council of Paterson, NJ ruled that several local schools in the city will include in their schedule two Muslim holidays as days when these schools will be closed.

## "THE MENTAL HEALTH" OF HUMANITY AS PLANNED BY THE UN

The newspaper "The Christian News" dated June 21 published a more than full page article with reference material by Berit Kjos which unveils a detailed plan of the United Nations on how to create toward the end of second millennium humanistic plan for altering the minds children beginning with their school days. The governments of almost all countries in the world are involved in the participation in this program. In this article there are numerous quotations from various contemporary American activists.

These programs were introduced as early as 1946, and are united in their aims and methods and carry the most appealing titles, but always connected with the "health," such as Healthy Start, Healthy People, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities, Healthy Cities and so on. As is said in the article, they "equate faith with hate and truth with intolerance."

As it turns out, already 47 American states fully participate in this program and by the year 2000 will have to create hundreds more similar organizations.

David Satcher, US Surgeon-General when reporting on the progress of this program said: "Every child should be given the opportunity for a healthy start... Our efforts will be focused on maintaining a system of global health surveillance... Healthy People 2010 is the United States contribution to the World Health Organization's call to the nations of the world to renew their commitment to health for all."

Donna Shalala, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services explained that "Mental health refers to how a person thinks, feels, and acts when faced with life's situations.... From fully immunizing children by age two... to stopping domestic violence, we're working to improve the lives of young people from the cradle to young adulthood. And a strong part of our vision is the mental health of children. We believe the mental health is just as important as physical health... may be even more so..."

Another similar activist, Professor Benjamin Bloom believes that the "purpose of education and the school is to change the thought, feeling and actions of students." In his report to UNESCO's Commission on Culture and Development on the of theme "Our Creative Diversity" he said that "the challenge to humanity is to adopt new ways of thinking, new ways of acting, new ways of organizing itself in society, in short, new ways of living." One Canadian psychiatrist openly admitted that today the main problem is not a diphtheria or scarlet fever, but parents who are not able to accept and use proven knowledge. "Individuals who have emotional disabilities of their own -- guilt, fears, inferiority -- are certain to project their hates on to others... Such a reaction now becomes a dangerous threat to the whole world... We must be prepared to sacrifice much... It cannot be done gently, it may have to be done roughly or even violently (Emph. by "Ch. N.")

While speaking about "hate" at the conference in the White House in 1997, President Clinton declared that "there would almost have to be some sort of club or organization at the school, because if you think about it, your parents are still pretty well separated... We have to find a disciplined, organized way out of this so that we reach every child in an affirmative way before something bad happens."

A manual from the National Training Institute for Applied Behavioral Science given to school teachers advises: "Although they appear to behave appropriately and seem normal by most cultural standards, they may actually be in need of mental health care in order to help them change, adapt, and conform to the planned society in which there will be no conflict of attitudes or beliefs." (Emph. by "Ch. N.")

This extremely important article abridged by us develops an extensive satanic plan, created by the forerunners of antichrist on how to proceed with the brainwashing of Christian minds.

The "thoughtful" in the United Nations for many years have also been concerned with the overpopulation of the world and also have taken practical measures to solve this problem. According to "The New York Times International" of July 3rd, in 1994 a conference was held in Cairo in which 179 nations participated and it was decided to "freeze"

population growth so that it would not exceed 9.8 billion people. At present there are considered to be 6 billion people in the world.

In order to achieve this aim, the UN proposed a program according to which in all countries where abortion is legalized, all women will have a free access to it. Also there was developed a plan to introduce into schools the subject of education about "sexual and reproductive health issues" in order to "teach them (children) responsible sexual behavior and protect them from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases." According to this plan of the UN, by the year 2005 90% of adolescents will have access to "the information, education and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to the disease." Of course, there is no mention of Christian principles of preserving virginity until marriage.

According to the newspaper all the participants, with only Argentina, Nicaragua and Vatican "abstaining," unanimously accepted these plans of the UN from voting and expressing their Christian views.

As is known, this notorious "sex education" of children (practiced in some places even in the kindergartens) is already widely spread throughout the world and often is taught in spite of parental objections.

#### CHANGES OF INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF JERUSALEM?

Since the very first days of the founding of the independent state of Israel, it wanted Jerusalem to be the capital, but all the governments who consider themselves to be Christian, and the Vatican in particular, insisted that Jerusalem as a cradle of Christianity, Judaism and Muslims - has to hold a special position and therefore cannot be considered a capital of Israel. Therefore, to the present day, all the embassies and consulates are in Tel-Aviv. Although America, which very much sympathizes with Israel, is trying to throw out this principle.

Thus according to information given by the "Jewish Press" on May 21, the American Ambassador Ned Walker, very quietly established in Jerusalem his "second residence" at which he entertains members of the Israeli government. The US Congress in 1995 made a decision according which their embassy has to move to Jerusalem no later than May 31st. Yet, the Congress provided President with a "waiver authority" to "suspend" this decision if "he determines and reports to Congress that suspension is necessary to protect national security interests of the United States."

"The New York Times" of June 19th regarding this question quoted an official declaration made by a spokesman of the White House in which it is explained that: "At a time when there is real potential for movement on the peace process, and as we look forward to the start of those crucial negotiations, the United States should not be taking steps of its own that prejudice those negotiations and make them more difficult."

According to another information, given by the "Jewish Press" on June 2nd, President Clinton earlier stopped the embassy transfer because he received warnings that such an act would disturb the peace negotiations with Palestinians in Oslo. The Palestinians approved Clinton's decision, because quite rightly they believe that such a transfer inevitably would mean that the USA recognizes the right of the Israelis to unify Jerusalem as their capital.

#### MOVES TOWARD A FEMALE PRIESTHOOD IN CATHOLICISM

Starting with the mid of sixties (shortly after the conclusion of the Vatican II Council) among the Catholic laity there arose a feminist movement which demanded women be ordained to the priesthood. The Popes, including the present one, very sternly have denounced the possibility of female priests, but nevertheless they have had to officially accept women as "altar girls" during the Mass. These concessions in no way satisfied the feminists and at present, their voices are heard more and more loudly. Interestingly in some places they have the support not only of the priests, but even of some Catholic bishops. Under strong pressure from feminists, the Roman Catholic episcopate will celebrate next year an international jubilee of "accomplishments of women." The celebration date is set for March 25th, the day of the Annunciation.

The newspaper "The Christian News" of May 31st related that a group of Roman Catholic feminists is gathering every third Sunday near the ruins of a church in Oakland, (in California) that was damaged by an earthquake and serve a "critical mass" there. According to organizer of those masses, Victoria Rue, they symbolize a new "theological earthquake."

The Roman Catholic Archbishop John Vlazny of Portland, Oregon, who sympathizes with the feminists said: "We just completed a century in which women have made great strides both in society and the church. We have much to celebrate, but we must also insure that progress continues. In both the church and society, what is permitted by law often moves slowly into practice."

In the opinion of the authors of this article, the Catholic Church is extending to women an olive branch. So an executive director of the Bishops Subcommittee on the Third Millennium, Paul Henderson, declared that "the jubilee days provide a wonderful opportunity to honor women for their contributions to society and to the church, to pray for them and to reflect with them on the challenges of the next century."

Nevertheless, one of the Catholic bishops John Cummins wrote, that "It is wrong to use the Eucharist in this way. Wrongs are not righted by bludgeoning each other with sacred things."

This blatant feminist movement flourishes not only in America.

The bulletin "Ecumenical News International" of May 21st reports that in Vienna a program opened for future women priests. These courses were set up by lay people who hope that if not a current Pope, then some other, will permit women to be ordained. This program is called "Wir sind die Kirche" ("We are the Church").

The organizer of this course Hubert Feichtblauer in a conversation with a reporter said that "the only questions for us are whether we've started too early, and whether we'll unwittingly fuel frustrations or encourage rash actions."

In April an inauguration mass was served, conducted by a woman belonging to the Old Catholic church and it was attended by more than 40 people.

Feminists were stressing that they are far from being radicals, but all of them are women in their forties, have moderate opinions and all of them felt "that a vocation should not be subdued or blocked by the church authorities."

The candidates for these courses are expected to have a theological education on the level of parochial requirements. The program is planned to extend for 3 years and will be held in Vienna. The Austrian Catholic episcopate ignored these courses, but several catholic priests volunteered their services as teachers.

#### HOW BELARUS "RESTRICTED" ARRIVAL OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS FROM ABROAD

According to "Ecumenical News International" of June 16th, Catholics sadly say that the government of Belarus has started to restrict the arrival of Catholic priests from abroad and believe it is because they are identified with Poles, whom the Orthodox population dislikes. Yet, from this bulletin's information we see quite the opposite.

Cardinal Kazimirz Swiatek, who heads Catholics in Belorussia said that he knows that restrictions exist, but so far he had not received any official demands from the government and the retiring Catholic priests are replaced as usual with ones coming from abroad.

There are in Belorussia 380 Catholic parishes which make up about 20% of 10,300,000 Orthodox. Cardinal Swiatek refused to give an exact figure for the number of Polish priests residing in Belorussia but it is considered to be half of his clergy. He also said that in Grodno there is a Catholic seminary which annually graduates 12 priests and this is not enough for Catholics.

The Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Pinsk Stanislaw Paulina said that the "restrictions" were more a "suggestion" than anything else and that there is no reason to expect "new pressure or hostility" by the government.

The Vatican just a while ago approved the establishment of a Catholic Bishops' Conference of four members and it was immediately recognized by the authorities, who because of the Easter holidays gave to Catholics widely expanded television time.

Journalists were also interested in the relationship between the Catholics in Belorussia and the Orthodox, belonging to the Moscow Patriarchate to which belong some 60% of the population. Metropolitan Philaret of Minsk (his KGB code name is "Ostrovski") heads the diocese in Belorussia. Catholic representative Paulina said that the relationship is such that one could not wish not for anything better. To a recent Catholic Assembly in Belorussia, Metropolitan Philaret has sent an observer and also two consultants. He also chaired a cycle of lectures by Cardinal Swiatek held annually in the Orthodox seminary.

According to further information given by Paulina, both churches recognize each other's marriages and have no objection to Catholics attending Orthodox churches and vice versa.

#### PROTECTION OF PAGANISM IN THE AMERICAN ARMY

The newspaper "The Christian News" of May 24th reports that the American Army recognized as a lawful religion a group of Wiccan pagans and even appointed chaplains to some military units. There are in the American army already five pagan groups at various military bases.

This outrageous event originally happened in Fort Hood, Texas, the largest base in the USA which consists of 42,000 soldiers and among them at least 100 official witches. The adherents of Wicca received the same rights as Christians, Jews or Muslims and their "dog tags" note their pagan religion. It is estimated that by now in America there are at least 50,000 adherents of this paganism. Lt. Col. Donald Troyer, chief chaplain in Fort Hood admitted that he is not happy with this because he is a Christian (Seventh Day Adventist) and nevertheless has to be in charge of witch covens.

The Pentagon declared that it received several requests in support of this group, because this particular fort has the largest amount of pagans. As the authorities explained, "We are obliged by the Constitution to respect and make provisions for the religious needs of members of the military and not to pass judgements on their beliefs."

A "Time" magazine on July 5th published an article entitled "I saluted a witch" with the subtitle "An army base in Texas becomes the hotbed for earth-goddess worshipers called Wiccans."

This journalist describes those satanic covens rather much detail.

The high priestess, according to his report, at night, illuminated by a burning cauldron according to the "moon ritual" lifted her hands toward the crescent moon. Around her stood figures, dressed in animal skins, some had staffs decorated with horns and hawk feathers. At a given signal by the witch all the participants of this coven stood in a circle and held hands around the fire. The witch called it "circle of power." The adherents of this cult believe that they will better the world with their incantations and achieve "tolerance and understanding."

Among the army's witches are colonels, sergeants, captains and regular soldiers. They belong to a permanent group of 50 persons belonging to another huge base in Killeen. As it turns out, according to this article, almost nobody knew about the recognition of this outrageous group (except the military themselves) until a local newspaper published a photograph of this coven torch-light rituals. After that the information about the Wiccans in the army started to spread.

Eleven different Christian groups called on Christians not to enlist or re-enlist in the US army until it stops supporting witchcraft. But the Army pays no attention to those objections of local non-military people, who quite rightfully believe that the religion of the Wiccans is Satanism, although Wiccans themselves try to justify themselves by insisting that they do not offer any human or animal sacrifices.

The witches at one time performed their rituals in the nude, until the military authorities forbade it.

Wiccans insist that they are simple pacifists and their witchcraft has nothing to do with "black magic." They claim to use only "white magic" spells in order to bring good to humanity.

It is frightening to think what will be the Lord's punishment to America and the world for the open and massive apostasy, which one watches already developing before our own eyes. Thus the newspaper "Novoye Russkoye Slovo" ("New Russian Word") on June 25th published an article entitled "A World Catastrophe" in which are cited prognoses for the future, made in Geneva by the International Red Cross. In it is given a warning that "the world is moving toward a number of 'super catastrophes' which will be a result of climatic changes, destruction of the ecological balance and overpopulation of the world." The newspaper notes that during the last year there were record numbers of natural disasters which brought with them unseen previously casualties. From the 60,000 people who perished because of those catastrophes, half occurred in Asia. The terrible hurricane Mitch was the most powerful in some 200 years and also resulted in a terrible disasters; landslides and floods in Honduras and Nicaragua killed 10,000 people.

A terrible drought in Indonesia during the last 50 years led to very low harvests and resulted in huge forest fires. The natural catastrophes of the year 1998 created an enormous flood of refugees, more than all the military conflicts of the last years. According to data of the Red Cross, the lowering of soil fertility, droughts, floods and annihilation of forests by fires already has forced 25 million people to resettle from their homes. These catastrophes influence the economic situation and especially in America, where insurance companies are unable to pay up their parts, especially in such social disasters like the Oklahoma City, where tornadoes totally destroyed parts of the city, leaving behind nothing more than boards and wood splinters. It is amazing that the tornado with winds of 312 miles per hour and more than a mile wide cost only 40 lives. The reason for it is a highly developed system of prior warning in America of disasters to come and also, in places where tornadoes happen regularly, people have deep basement shelters in their homes.

#### DISTURBING DATA ON MAGNETIC CARDS AND ELECTRONIC "ACHIEVEMENTS"

The magnetic cards which were invented mainly to speed the paying of tolls on bridges, highways and subways for some time now have been troubling observant Christians. Following on this is a diligent insistence that parents implant a magnetic "chip" in their children under the pretext it will prevent their loss in a crowd or by kidnapping. At the first glance all these seem to be very useful inventions, but they lead the world toward a massive state control of the entire population. In America the so-called "E-ZPass" is paid to local administrations by subtracting funds from an account of the card's owner. At the end of the month the card holder gets a statement in which are accurately listed all his trips and places he entered en route. In one of the American papers, as well as in Russia, this method was advertised as an easing the possibility for police to catch a criminal on the run. If it desires, by the very same system the government can easily trace the balance of funds in the bank of every one of the citizen. Also the banks in no time can supply the government with financial information on their customers.

A while ago in Ukraine was a rumor that the government plans to issue to every citizen a card with detailed information about him. This created in Ukraine a very great agitation of the citizens of this one Russian province. The newspapers reported that the local tax collection centers were flooded with the following or similar declarations: "I am a believer in the Orthodox Church and due to my convictions consider this coding as a forerunner of antichrist's government... and I refuse to use this code. I request that all the necessary accounts be maintained in the former manner."

Now a similar danger is threatening Moscow and may the Lord grant that the Moscow residents will follow this example and oppose this purely antichristian measure as in Ukraine. According to information published in "Russkii Vestnik" ("The Russian Herald") in issue # 18-19 the Mayor plans to introduce in Moscow a new "card of a Muscovite" for the subway. As it turned out, Louzhkov took measures preparing for this already in 1998. The newspaper states that the city's administration accepted a resolution "for creating in Moscow a system of non-cash transactions for merchandise and services through usage of the 'Muscovite card'." And now, this is being written, we have learned that during the summer and fall of 1999 the 'Muscovite card' is to be introduced in Zelenograd and the western administrative region of Moscow for practical trials. First it will be issued to 20,000 people, then in the next stage 150-200 thousand and finally by all the residents of Moscow, including guests of the capital." This is advertised also as offering possible discounts at the time of purchase!

As is already known, this Louzhkov card will have electronic information including all the personal data of the holder: passport, medical, insurance, financial and so on. The card is described as going to have many lines which will indicate the time and place of the toll booth, which will give the possibility of recording and controlling the movement of every resident using this card. But the control does not stop there. As was announced on the TV "Good Morning Program" on March 5th, another additional program is in development: in the subway there will be installed special machines to control one's exit from the train station!

The newspaper "The Christian News" of June 28th published an article which points out the increasing control of governments over their citizens. Stressing out that this satanic program is supported alike by Republican and Democratic parties in America, the author of the article relates that the US Department of Transportation was given the responsibility of implementing a national identification card. It was decided to take as a base the social security number which is already given to every new born in the USA, the driver's license and similar documentation. Lisa Dean, of the Free Congress Foundation reported that "Beginning in 2000... citizens will no longer be eligible for health care, or employment, able to conduct bank transactions, board an airplane, purchase insurance, or acquire a transport, if they don't have this card."

Truly, the antichrist's seal of "The Book of Revelations" is almost complete upon the whole contemporary world....

#### A PRIEST OF THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE, POLOSIN, CONVERTED TO ISLAM

According to the "Ecumenical News International" of June 30, Priest Viacheslav Polosin formally declared that he renounced Christ and has joined "the great tradition of the true faith of the prophets of monotheism, beginning with Abraham" and is becoming a Muslim. Polosin also stated that he was not circumcised, a rite not so strictly enforced as by the Jews. This former priest, like the similar one some time ago, Yakunin, is solely interested in a political career so that his renunciation of Christ is not surprising.