

2009 COMMENCEMENT  
OF

*St Vladimir's  
Orthodox Theological Seminary*



SATURDAY  
MAY 16, 2009  
2:00 PM

St Vladimir's Seminary  
575 Scarsdale Rd, Yonkers, NY

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

# *Commencement Exercises*

- 1 Molieben
- 2 Procession of Graduates and Faculty
- 3 Opening Prayer: “Christ is Risen”
- 4 Opening of the Commencement Exercises  
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, President
- 5 Welcoming Remarks  
Fr John Behr, Dean
- 6 Commencement Address  
Mother Raphaela, Abbess, Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery,  
Otego, New York: “As God Wills”
- 7 Conferring of Degrees to the Class of 2009
- 8 The Saint Basil the Great Award for Academic Achievement  
Evan Freeman
- 9 Valedictory Address  
Evan Freeman
- 10 Induction into the Alumni Association  
Fr David Barr, Association President
- 11 Salutatory Address  
Dn Andrew Cuneo
- 12 Concluding Remarks  
Fr Chad Hatfield, Chancellor
- 13 Closing of the Commencement Exercises  
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, President
- 14 Closing prayer: “Shine, Shine...”
- 15 Recession of Graduates and Faculty

# Class of 2009

## Candidates for the Master of Divinity degree

Michelle Mary BAHUMIAN

*Pain, Pathos, and Pedagogy: The Positive Value of Suffering in St Basil the Great's Hom.  
Quod Deus Non Est Auctor Malorum*

Sean FAGAN

Evan FREEMAN (*Valedictorian, summa cum laude*)

*Redefining the Icon: The Problem of Innovation in the Writings of Florensky, Ouspensky, and  
Kontoglou*

Troy HAMILTON

*The Topology and Topography of Tyre and Sidon*

Nicholas HUBBARD

*Field Education and Theological Reflection*

Brock JOHNS

Fr John Victor MAGRAMM

*The Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem 1843-1986*

Dn Ryan Ezras TELLALIAN

*Apatheia and Cognitive Restructuring: Toward an Integrated Expression of the Relationship  
Between Orthodoxy and Psychology*

Sdn Abraham (Vijay) THOMAS

*The Message of the Prophets: A Comparison of the Bible and the Qur'an*

Jacob VAN SICKLE (*cum laude*)

*Basil and the Art of Shepherding in Fourth Century Asia Minor: An Examination of His  
Epistolary Ministry*

Fr Aaron WARWICK (*magna cum laude*)

*The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus: An Alternative Approach*

# *Candidates for the Master of Arts (Theology) degree*

**Katrina BITAR**

*A Model for a Youth Pastor at the Parish Level, Guided  
by St. Gregory the Great's Book of Pastoral Rule*

**Ian JONES** (*summa cum laude*)

*Divine Grace and the Human Will in St John Cassian's Thirteenth Conference*

**Ana KARLICIC**

*The Iconology of Visual Representations of the Relationship Between  
Apostles Peter and Paul: How and Why is Conflict Changed to Harmony?*

**Juliana MECERA** (*cum laude*)

*An Analysis of the Theologies Employed in the Christian Responses  
to A Common Word Between Us and You*

**Radomir PLAVSIC**

*Solzhenitsyn's Evolving Views on Russia from Perestroika Onward*

**Dr N. T. Anders STRINDBERG** (*cum laude*)

*"In Ipsa Fide Christus Adest": Theosis in the Lutheran Theology  
of Lars Levi Laestadius*

**Mariam Ceena VARGHESE** (*cum laude*)

*A Guide to the Liturgical Services of the Orthodox Syrian Church:  
Introduction and Translation*

# *Candidates for the Master of Theology degree*

Nikolaj KOSTUR

*The Relationship Between the Russian Orthodox Church in North America  
and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad from 1920-1950*

Fr Stephen LILLEY

*Baptism in the Syrian Tradition: The First Three Centuries*

Jennifer Haddad MOSHER

*Christ Child: An Orthodox Theology of Childhood*

Sarah Ann WAGNER-WASSEN

*Creating Narratives and Creating Feasts: The Entry of the Theotokos from  
the Protoevangelion of James to a Great Feast*

# Commencement Speaker

## *Mother Raphaela, Abbess*

Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York

### *“As God Wills”*

Born in Topeka, Kansas, Mother Raphaela was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. She later moved to New Jersey, graduated from Princeton High School, and attended Barnard College in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

In 1964, she entered monastic life and was life-professed as an Episcopal nun in 1972. During that time, she taught classes on the high school level in Old and New Testament, and organ and choral music; as well, she served for five years as director of novices within her community.

She was received into the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) in 1977, and since that time, with the foundation of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, she has worked to establish Orthodox monastic life for women in the United States.

Her daily life follows the monastery rhythm, and her spiritual experience is gained within the monastery setting, but she does give occasional outside quiet days, retreats, and talks. Her writings have been published in numerous church publications, including the monastery’s own “Essays and Notes,” a journal. She is also the author of *Living in Christ: Essays on the Christian Life* and *Growing in Christ: Shaped in His Image* (SVS Press: Crestwood, New York), both of which are compilations of her essays.

The St Vladimir’s Seminary community warmly welcomes her to the campus.



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