



## *Nicholai Studies* Notices, July–December 2021:

### The Legacy of St. Nicholai Velimirovich

#### God–Worshipper Movement Gathering at the Monastery of Tuman

Tuman, August 8/21, 2021

On Saturday, August 8/21, 2021, the holiday of the Tuman Saints — Saint Zosimus the Sinaite and Saint Jakov of Tuman, was marked in the Monastery of Tuman.

After the Divine Liturgy, served by several hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church, there was a whole–day of spiritual and scientific lectures and cultural program, focused on the legacy of the “God–Worshipper Movement” (in Serbian: Богомољачки покрет / Bogomoljački pokret) of Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich and his collaborators, especially on St. Jakov (Radoje) Arsović.

Among other speakers and performers, there were several especially interesting lectures. The Very Rev. Archimandrite Dositej (Miljkov) of the Monastery of Grgeteg held a lecture on God–Worshipper Movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while Rev. Fr. Aleksandar Jovanović talked on the Saints of the Monastery of Tuman. Professor Rastko Jović from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology at the University of Belgrade held a lecture on the joys of the Church’s life. Aleksandar Ristanović, an actor and performer, directed and performed a monodrama on St. Jakov Arsović, entitled “A Witness of Repent” [in Serbian: „Сведок покајања“].

As it was announced by Archimandrite Dimitrije (Plečević), Hegumen of the Monastery of Tuman, there are plans for building a guest residence, which will be able to accommodate 120 pilgrims, and a large library and a lecture hall at the Monastery

of Tuman — in honor of St. Jakov Arsović, along with Bishop Nicholai, the initiator and the leader of the God–Worshipping movement. More information is available at the website of the Monastery of Tuman — <http://manastirtumane.org>.

## The Legacy of St. Nicholai Velimirovich

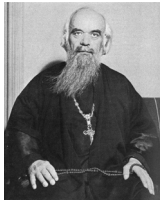
Münster, September 1, 2021

The fourth Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion took place in Münster (Germany) between Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. University of Münster (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster) was the organizing institution. This year, more than 800 participants from around the world participated in the conference, which contained 163 panels (details are available at the 2021 EuARE conference schedule) at the European Academy of Religion website: [www.europeanacademyofreligion.org/annual-conference-2021](http://www.europeanacademyofreligion.org/annual-conference-2021).




The keynote lecturers at the conference were Vassilis Saroglou (Université Catholique de Louvain), Guy Stroumsa (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Judith Wolfe (University of St. Andrews), Azza Karam (Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam)...

On Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a panel dedicated to St. Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich. Panel 155, with the working title “The Legacy of Nicholai Velimirovich” was held in a hybrid format — as a combination of online presentations and presentations of panelists present in Münster. This panel took place at the Philosophisches Seminar (Domplatz 23, 48143 Münster),

European Academy of Religion  
#EuARE2021. Conference  
University of Münster  
(Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)  
Münster, Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> — Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>



Panel 155  
The Legacy of Nikolaj Velimirović  
Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2.15pm — 5.45pm  
Format: Hybrid  
Room: DPL23.201/Philosophikum (Domplatz 23)

and was organized by the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

As it was announced before the conference, the panel aimed to scrutinize the intellectual legacy of the modern Orthodox theologian Nicholai Velimirovich (1881–1956). Namely, despite the unanimous recognition of his intellectual and spiritual caliber, Velimirovich remains a largely under-researched author both in a Serbian national and an international context. Moreover, apart from being scantily studied, his writings are usually subject to excessive misinterpretation. This is particularly the case with one of the constants of Velimirovich's work, namely his criticism of certain European ideas. Perhaps, more than any other aspect of his work, Velimirovich's views on Europe have been approached in a biased way and instrumentalized in highly charged political disputes.

By commemorating the hundred-fortieth anniversary of Velimirovich's birth and sixty-fifth anniversary of his death, this panel shed light on:

- 1) Velimirovich's formative period before and during WWI, he spent in Germany, Switzerland, UK, and USA, and his ecumenical endeavors;
- 2) the interwar period, while he served first as bishop of Žiča and later as bishop of Ohrid, and his relationship with the Yugoslav government and political parties, Roman-Catholic Church, Jewish communities, as well as with the ideologies of fascism and communism;
- 3) his imprisonment during WWII in Dachau, immigration in the USA, and the life in immigration, including his rectorate at St Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan (PA) and his engagements with American Christians.

The chairs of the panel were Vladimir Cvetković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) and Rastko Lompar (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, Serbia).

Participants of the panel “The Legacy of Nicholai Velimirovich” were:

- Milan Kostrešević (University of Bern, Switzerland): “Nicholai Velimirovich’s Scientific Activity in Bern: Doctorates in Theology and Philosophy” (Kostrešević could not participate but he submitted his paper);
- Srećko Petrović (University of Belgrade, Serbia): “A Review of Early Ecumenical Engagement of Nicholai Velimirovich: 1908–1921”;
- Phillip Calington (St Sergius Orthodox Academy, Paris, France): “St Nicholai Velimirovich and pre-Christian philosophers”;
- Rastko Lompar (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, Serbia): “Reassessing Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich’s Stances on Fascism and the Yugoslav National Movement Zbor”;
- Nemanja Andrijašević (University of Munich, Germany): “Instructions of Bishop Dr. Nicholai Velimirovich Addressed to the Archpriest Aleksa Todorović regarding the Arrangement of Religious-national edition ‘Svečanik’”;
- Vladimir Cvetković (University of Belgrade, Serbia): “Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich’s View on the Relationship between Politics and Religion”;
- Dragan Šljivić (University of Erfurt, Germany): “The Orthodox Nevercoming Land: St. Nicholai of Ohrid and Žiča on Democracy”;
- Srećko Petrović (University of Belgrade, Serbia): “Engagement of Nicholai Velimirovich after the World War II”.

According to the schedule of the conference, this panel was to be held from 14.15 to 17.45, with a break; however, there was a lot of questions so there was almost no break and there was not enough time for the questions which were raised and discussions which started, so panelists and other participants extended the time to continue the discussion.

This international scientific event was a kind of commemoration and celebration of the legacy of St. Bishop Nicholai — on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Nicholai Velimirovich's birth, 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his repose in the Lord, and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transfer of his holy relics to Lelić in Serbia. Hopefully, there will be more events of this kind in the future.

A collection of articles presented at the conference in English should be published soon, by the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (<https://www.balkaninstitut.com/>) and the Sebastian Press — the publishing house of the Diocese of Western America of the Serbian Orthodox Church (<https://sebastianpress.org/>).

### Lecture “Bishop Nicholai and the Jewish People”

Kosovska Mitrovica, September 7, 2021

“Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich and the Jewish People” [in Serbian: „Владика Николај Велимировић и Јевреји“] was the title of a lecture given by historian Miloš Damjanović at the Cultural Center “Aquarius” in Kosovska Mitrovica on September 7, 2021. The lecture was organized on the occasion of the European Day of Jewish Culture, which also was dedicated to the topic of dialogue last year.



Damjanović addressed some controversial topics. Namely, there are various controversial narratives about the attitude of Bishop Nicolai — the great clergyman of the Serbian Orthodox Church of the 20<sup>th</sup> century — towards the Jewish people, related to the post-war propaganda of former Socialist Yugoslavia — which demonized Bishop Nicolai, unjustifiably connecting him with Nazi ideology and anti-Semitism.

Such stereotypical foundations served during the civil war in Yugoslavia, but also today, to further expand the propaganda image of Bishop Nicolai's personality and work, which indirectly stigmatized the Serbian people in the international community. However, the historical truth is quite the opposite: Bishop Nicolai himself was a victim of the Nazis, and he was involved in saving at least two Jewish people from the Holocaust, although the occupier foresaw the death penalty for such a humane act. More information is available at the website of the Cultural Center "Aquarius" — <https://galerijaaquarius.files.wordpress.com/>.

### **Žiča Pathways of St. Nicolai Velimirovich**

Kraljevo, September—October 2021

In the Diocese of Žiča, in order to mark the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Nicolai Velimirovich's birth, a spiritual program entitled "On Nicolai's Pathways of Žiča" (in Serbian: „Николајевим жичким стазама“ / „Nikolajevim žičkim stazama“) was held in the Church of St. Sava in Kraljevo during September and October 2021.

This program began on Friday, September 10, 2021. On that day, in the Church of St. Sava in Kraljevo, at 6 pm there was the service of the Akathistos to Jesus Christ the Conqueror of Death, a specific prayer written by Bishop Nicolai. Later that evening, the Very Rev. Protopresbyter Ljubinko Kostić gave the St. Nicolai Sermon, in which he presented the biography and the theological work of Bishop Nicolai. After that, the actor Nebojša Dugalić read "Prayers on the Lake," one of the most beautiful works written by Bishop Nicolai.

Within this program, a recently published collection of articles on Dostoevsky — entitled *The Tempted Thought of Dostoevsky* (in Serbian: *Искушана мисао Достојевској*) — was presented on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The speakers were Archimandrite Damjan (Cvetković), protopresbyter Aleksandar R. Jevtić (the editor of the collection), Prof. Dragoljub Danilović, and Ana Gvozdrenović. The reason for the publication of this collection lies in the fact that the 2021 year was also a jubilee year regarding Dostoyevski — 2021 marked 200 years since Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, an author who deeply impacted Nicholai Velimirovich and Serbian theology of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was born, and 140 years since he passed away.

The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Milić Dragović held a lecture on the topic “Churchness and National Piety from the St. Bishop Nicholai to the Present Day” (in Serbian: „Црквеност и народна побожност од Светог Владике Николаја до наших дана“) on the next Saturday, September 25, 2021. Fr. Milić presented to the listeners the phases that our people went through throughout history, forming their piety. He recognized a special role in the direction of our people towards the Church in the character and work of Bishop Nicholai, both through his written work and through his tireless zeal in leading the faithful people. — “That is most visible in his attitude towards the God–Worshipping movement, which without Bishop Nicholai would probably be a source of various spiritual deviations and schisms,” said Fr. Milić.

On Friday, October 1, 2021, the monks from the Monastery of Tuman brought relics of St. Jakov Arsović to the Church of St. Sava in Kraljevo. After the Akathist to St. Jakov of Tuman, which was read by Archimandrite Damjan (Cvetković), a lecture on the character and work of Saint Jakov (Arsović) began in the evening. Archimandrite Damjan greeted the gathered people, while Fr. Aleksandar Jevtić reminded of the unbreakable spiritual connection between St. Nicholai of Žiča and St. Jakov, and thus the Monastery of Žiča and the Monastery of Tuman, as well as the dioceses of Žiča and Braničevo. In the continuation, the lecture was given by the monks of the Tu-

man brotherhood — Archimandrite Dimitrije (Plećević) and Protosyncellus Petar (Bogdanović). The lecture was entitled “St. Jakov Arsović — A Witness and a Preacher of Repent” (in Serbian: „Свети Јаков Арсовић — сведок и проповедник покајања“). Their inspired presentation attracted the attention of a large number of listeners, invoking interesting examples of piety from the life of St. Jakov (Arsović).

This spiritual cycle in the Church of St. Sava in Kraljevo had the culmination on Saturday, October 2, 2021, when Bishop Justin (Stefanović) of Žiča presided over the Eucharistic assembly, together with the Tuman fraternity and the clergy from various parts of the Diocese. The Bishop spoke about the life and work of monk Jakov, who became an example and a sign for our times with a great feat. In the afternoon, the relics of St. Jakov were sent off to the Monastery of Tuman, with great gratitude to all for this unusual and historical visit that took place after 75 years since the death of this monk of Žiča, now the Saint of Žiča and Tuman. [More information on these lectures and events are available at the websites of the Diocese of Žiča (<http://eparhija-zicka.rs/>) and the Monastery of Tuman (<http://manastirtumane.org.>)]

### **The New Issue of “Žički Blagovesnik” dedicated to St. Nicholai Velimirovich**

Kraljevo — Žiča, October 9, 2021

A semi-official gazette of the Diocese of Žiča in the mid-war period was *The Review of the Church of the Diocese of Žiča* (in Serbian: *Преїлед Цркве Еїархије жичке*), founded by Bishop Nicholai of Žiča in 1919. When two decades later he again was a hierarch of the Diocese of Žiča, Velimirovich founded a new journal, as a continuation of *The Review of the Church of the Diocese of Žiča*, entitled *Žički Blagovesnik* (in Serbian: *Жички блаїовесник*). Two years later, after the WWII outbreak in Yugoslavia, this journal ended its publication — it was not published after March 1941 (two last issues were published in



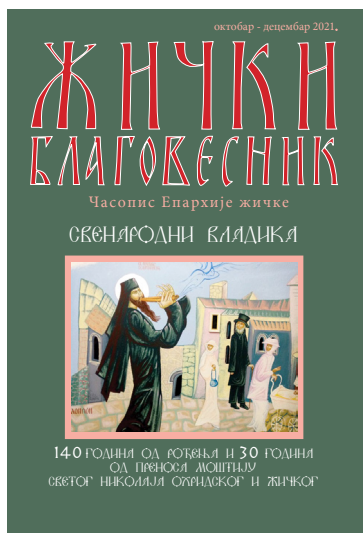
January and February 1941). However, the Diocese of Žiča re-launched this journal in 1997.

As part of activities of the Diocese of Žiča regarding the celebration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Nicholai Velimirovich's birth, the last issue of *Žički Blagovesnik* (No. 4/2021, October–December 2021) is fully dedicated to St. Nicholai.

This issue is entitled “The All–National Bishop” (in Serbian: „Свенародни Владика“). The front cover is decorated with an unusual icon depicting Bishop Nicholai playing the flute on the streets of London to the surprise of passers-by (the author of this icon is Bojan Miljković). On the back cover, there is the icon of St. Nicholai from the altar apse of the Monastery of Tvrdoš.

In this issue of the magazine, which is a kind of textbook that contributes to the understanding of the character and work of Bishop Nicholai, the works shed light on different periods of his life. The photographs that accompany the text show the Bishop's walk through history. In this issue were published texts on Bishop Nicholai, his contribution, and his activities written by Bishop Atanasije Jevtić, Protopresbyter Ljubinko Kostić, Prof. Dragoljub Danilović, Miloš Živanović, Presbyter Vladimir Jovanović, Milorad Vasiljević, Luka Lukić, Protopresbyter Milan Filipović, Protopresbyter Nenad Bajić, and Presbyter Aleksandar R. Jevtić.

Editor-in-Chief of the *Žički Blagovesnik* is Presbyter Aleksandar R. Jevtić, while the members of the Editorial Board are Archimandrite Tikhon (Rakićević) of Studenica, Fr. Ljubinko Kostić, Fr. Milić Dragović, Fr. Novica Blagojević, Fr. Slobodan Jakovljević, Dragan Hamović, Nun Hristina (Stojanović) and Milorad Vasiljević. Publisher of the *Žički Blagovesnik* is the Diocese of Žiča.



**Links between Times: A Conference on the Centennial of ROCOR**  
Belgrade — Sremski Karlovci, November 22–26, 2021

August 2021 marked the centenary of the day the Council of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church took the decision to grant canonical protection to the Russian Temporary Higher Church Administration Abroad (often abbreviated as THCAA) [in Russian: Временное высшее церковное управление], which was soon inherited by the Supreme Church Authority Abroad (abbreviated in English as SEAA) [in Russian: Высшее русское церковное управление за границей (ВРЦУЗ)] — an event in which Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich actively participated. Namely, on that occasion, after the speeches of Metropolitan Gavriilo (Dožić) of Montenegro and the Littoral, Metropolitan Varnava (Rosić) of Skoplje, and Bishop Nicholai of Žiža, “the suggestion of the 4<sup>th</sup> section, concerning the administration of Russian refugees, was approved unanimously” (Patriarchal Archive of the SOC. Minutes from the 4<sup>th</sup> regular assembly of the Holy Hierarchal Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church, held in Sremski Karlovci on August 18/31, 1921 — quoted according to paper by Rev. Fr. Nikolaj L. Kostur, “The Relationship of the Serbian Orthodox Church to the ROCA: 1920–1941,” *Nicholai Studies*, Vol. II, No. 3 (2022): 56).

Metropolitan Antony (Khrapovitsky) settled in the town of Sremski Karlovci in February 1921. A few other bishops of the THCAA, including Anastasius (Gribanovsky) and Benjamin (Fedchenkov), as well as numerous priests and monks, relocated to Serbia in the months to follow, and with the agreement and support of the Serbian Orthodox Church, between November 21 and December 2, 1921 (November 8–20 according to Julian calendar), the “General Assembly of Representatives of the Russian Church Abroad” [in Russian: Всеаграничное русское церковное собрание] took place in Sremski Karlovci. This assembly was presided by Metropolitan Antony, and established the “Supreme Ecclesiastic Administration Abroad”

(SEAA), composed of a President (First–Hierarch), a Synod of Bishops, and a Church Council. This assembly was later renamed as the “First All-Diaspora Council” [in Russian: Первый Всезарубежный собор].

One century after the council in Karlovci — precisely on the same dates, although that was not planned — a conference “Links between Times: Conclusions and Perspectives.

On the Centennial of the Russian Church Abroad, 2021–2021” took place in Belgrade and Sremski Karlovci from November 22–25, 2021. This conference was held with the blessings of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church and His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. The conference was organized by the Archives of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Director: Dr. Radovan Pilipović) and the Website “Historical Studies of the Russian Church Orthodox Abroad” (Director: Deacon

Andrei Psarev, Ph.D., Professor of Russian Church History & Canon Law Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, Jordanville, NY).

The conference began with an informal reception on November 22 in the evening, when Prof. Psarev greeted speakers and guests noting that studies of the history of the Russian Church Abroad could help in understanding various contemporary processes. The next morning, on November 23, in the Holy Trinity Russian Church in Belgrade, the metochion of the Moscow Patriarchate, a memorial service was served for Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitski) and other reposed ROCOR



hierarchs and devoted members. Speakers and guests of the conference then moved to the Envoy Hotel Conference Center, and after reading of an address by Patriarch Porfirije (Perić) of the Serbian Orthodox Church, delivered by his vicar Bishop Justin (Jeremić) of Hvosno, Prof. Vladimir Burega read an address from His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kyiv and All Ukraine, Metropolitan Mark (Arndt) of Berlin and Germany read an address from His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of ROCOR, and Prof. Psarev read address from the Dean of Holy Trinity Seminary Nicolas I. Schidlovsky. After these greetings, the work of the conference began.

The conference “Links between Times” was held in a hybrid format — the event was broadcasted from Serbia, and a few of the participants who were not present delivered their lectures online. The talks were held mainly in Russian and live broadcasted along with a simultaneous translation of discussions (translated in English by the conference interpreter Walker (John) Thompson, a Ph.D. candidate at the Heidelberg University). Questions put in English to Russian speakers were translated into Russian by the conference interpreter, and vice versa. The conference talks were delivered in eight sessions, organized in chronological order, and each panel was followed by discussions, comments, questions, and answers.

The first 3 sessions of the conference were held in Belgrade (in Envoy Hotel Conference Center, on November 23), sessions 4 and 5 were held in Sremski Karlovci (in the historical Seminary in Sremski Karlovci, on November 24), and sessions 6 to 8 were held again in Belgrade (on November 25).

Here we will list the names of the participants of the conference and the papers they delivered:

### **Session I. The Russian Church in Exile before the ROCOR:**

- 1) Andrei Vladimirovich **Popov** (Associate Professor, Department of History and Archive Studies, Institute of History and Archives, Russian State University for the Humanities; Director of Studies for Master’s Program on “History of the

- Russian Orthodox Church”, Moscow): “Archival Heuristics and the History of the Russian Church Abroad” (in Russian)
- 2) Vladimir Viktorovich **Burega** (Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary, Kyiv): “Metropolitan Antony (Khrapovitsky) as a Ruling Bishop of the See of Kyiv and Galich (1918–1920)” (in Russian)
  - 3) Iuliia Aleksandrovna **Biriukova** (Don State Technological University, Rostov-on-Don): “The Influence of Political Forces on the Activities of the South-Eastern and First All-Diaspora Church Councils (1919–1921)” (in Russian)
  - 4) The Very Rev. Archpriest Dmitrii **Olikhov** (Department of Theology, Philosophy, and Cultural Studies, Dostoevsky Omsk State University; Omsk Theological Seminary): “The Convening of Church Councils in ‘White’ Russia as a Precedent for the Organization of the All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Church” (in Russian)

#### Session II: World War II as a Continuation of the Russian Civil War:

- 5) Mikhail Vitalevich **Shkarovskii** (Leading Researcher, Central State Archive of Saint Petersburg): “Relations Between the Russian Church Abroad and the Axis Powers and their Allies during World War II” (delivered online, in Russian)
- 6) Ivan Vasil’evich **Petrov** (Saint Petersburg State University): “Contacts between the ROCOR and Clergy and Laity in the Occupied USSR during World War II” (in Russian)

#### Session III: Navigating Canon Law in Uncharted Waters:

- 7) The Very Rev. Archpriest Aleksandr **Zadornov** (Vice-Rector for Academic Work, Dean of the Department of Practical Church Disciplines, Moscow Theological Academy, Sergiev Posad): “Prof. S. V. Troitskii’s (d. 1972) Assessment of the Status of the Orthodox Episcopate in the Diaspora” (in Russian)
- 8) Rev. Presbyter Jovan **Marjanac** (M.Div., Secretary of the Diocese of Canada of the Serbian Orthodox Church): “The Ca-

nonical Assessment of the ROCOR in the Works of Prof. Sergei V. Troitskii” (in Russian)

- 9) Svetlana **Bakonina** (Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox University of the Humanities, Moscow): “The Far Eastern Ecclesiastical District as an Alternative to the Supreme Ecclesiastical Authority of the Church Abroad” (in Russian)

#### **Session IV: Interactions Between the ROCOR and the Serbian Orthodox Church:**

- 10) Rev. Presbyter Nemanja S. **Mrdjenovic** (St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, Blacktown, NSW, and Ss. Cyrill and Methodius Orthodox Institute): “The Relationship between the ROCOR and the Serbian Orthodox Church in Australia from 1950–1969” (delivered online, in English)
- 11) Srećko **Petrović** (Ph.D. Student at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology at the University of Belgrade): “Churchmen of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in the Life and Work of Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich” (in English)
- 12) Yurii Vasil’evich **Danilets** (Ph.D., Associate Professor, Uzhgorod National University, Uzhgorod, Ukraine): “The ROCOR and Orthodoxy in Subcarpathian Rus in the 1920s” (in Russian)

#### **Session V: Russian Ecclesiastical Refugees in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and in Yugoslavia:**

- 13) Radovan **Pilipović** (Ph.D., Director of the Archive of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Belgrade): “Russian Priests in the Serbian Orthodox Church (Russian Clergy and their Serbian Flock), 1920–1940” (in Russian)
- 14) Viktor Ivanovich **Kosik** (Institute of Slavic Studies, Moscow): “The Deeds and Fate of Russian Clergy in Yugoslavia” (in Russian)
- 15) Alexey Yurievich **Timofeev** (University of Belgrade, Serbia): “The Fate of the Russian Parishes in Tito’s Yugoslavia, 1944–1954” (in Russian)

### Session VI: Developments during the Cold War:

- 16) Aleksandr Valeriĭevich **Slesarev** (Vice–Rector for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty of Church History and Practical Church Disciplines, Minsk Theological Academy): “The Role of ROCOR Hierarchs Archbishop Filofei Narko and Afanasii Martas in Founding a Belarusian Diocese under the Jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople” (delivered online, in Russian)
- 17) Andrei Aleksandrovich **Kostriukov** (Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox University of the Humanities, Moscow): “Problems in the Relations between the ROCOR Synods of Bishops and Lay Organizations from 1960 through the 1970s” (in Russian)
- 18) Serhiy Viktorovich **Shumylo** (Director of the International Institute of Athonite Heritage, Researcher at the Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Associate Professor of the Department of Humanities of the National Academy of Leading Cadres of Culture and Arts of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, Kyiv): “The ROCOR and Catacomb Communities in the USSR in the 1970s–1980s” (in Russian)

### Session VII: ROCOR and the North American Metropolia/OCA:

- 19) Rev. Fr. Nikolaj **Kostur** (Secretary of the Serbian Diocese of Midwestern America): “The Relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church in North America and the ROCOR from 1920–1950” (in English)
- 20) Aleksei Pavlovich **Liberovsky** (Archivist – Orthodox Church in America, Director – Office of History & Archives) “The Relationship of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and ROCOR from 1950 to the Present according to Documents in the OCA Archives” (in Russian)

### Session VIII: Conclusions and Perspectives:

- 21) Deacon Andrei **Psarev** (Professor of Russian Church History and Canon Law, Director of Undergraduate Program,

Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville, New York): “The Development of the ROCOR’s Attitude to the All-Russian Council of 1917–1919 with Regard to the Issue of Conciliarity” (in Russian)

- 22) Deacon Vitaly **Permiakov** (Assistant Professor of Liturgical Theology, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY): “Can We Speak of a Liturgical Tradition of the Russian Church Abroad?” (in Russian)
- 23) Deacon Paul Kentigern **Siewers** (Associate Professor of English, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania): “Perceptions and Realities of Contemporary Converts to Orthodoxy in North America: A Survey of Online and Research Evidence and Debate” (online in English)

This conference included a few unofficial, non-scholarly but spiritual and intellectual enriching aspects — luncheon in the Serbian Orthodox Seminary of Saint Arsenije of Srem in Sremski Karlovci, organized by the Dean of the Seminary, Very Rev. Fr. Jovan Milanović, screening of the documentary “His Excellency Baron Wrangel” (in Serbian with Russian subtitles) by director Boško Milosavljević (on November 24), dinner at the restaurant “Šešir moj” in Belgrade, where Metropolitan Mark of Berlin shared his insights on Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco (on November 25). On the feast of Saint John Chrysostom (November 13/26, 2021) Metropolitan Mark celebrated Divine Liturgy along with a few participants of the conference in the Monastery of Vavedenje on Senjak. This convent was founded in the 1930s as the metochion of Monastery of Kuveždin in Srem; the first abbes of the Monastery of Vavedenje was Hegumenia Melanija Krivokućin, on whose tonsuring was present Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich. After the Liturgy, His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije visited Metropolitan Mark at the convent. On the same rainy day, a walking tour of the Russian Necropolis in Belgrade was led by Dr. Aleksej Timofejev. At the very end of this event, Rev. Fr. Nikolaj Kostur with a few participants held a small memorial service for Metropolitan Antony (Khrapovitsky) on his tomb in



the Iveron Chapel at the New Cemetery in Belgrade (in the late morning on November 26, 2021). More information on this conference is available at the website for the Historical Studies of the Russian Church Abroad, at the page “Serbia 2021” — dedicated to the academic conference on the past and present of the ROCOR — “Links between Times” — held in Belgrade in November 2021: <https://www.rocorstudies.org/category/serbia-2021/>.

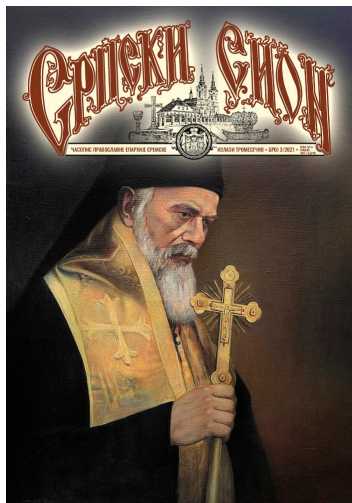
Proceedings of the conference should be published soon, by the Archives of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

### The New Issue of “Serbian Zion” dedicated to St. Nicholai Velimirovich

Sremski Karlovci, December 2, 2021

The last issue of the official gazette of the Diocese of Srem *Serbian Zion* (in Serbian: *Српски Сион: часопис Православне епархије сремске за верску њоуку и духовну нагѣрадњу* / *Srpski Sion: časopis Pravoslavne eparhije sremske*) is dedicated to St. Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich. The topic of this issue was “Bishop Nicholai of Žiča and Ohrid as an Inspiration” [in Serbian: „Владика Николај Жички и Охридски као инспирација“] and there are a few texts on Bishop Nicholai published in No. 3/2021 of this journal, written by Presbyter Stanko Laketić, Presbyter Aleksandar R. Jevtić, Darko Paripović, Zorica Stefanović, Ivana Jokić, and Božidar Vasić.

Editor-in-Chief of the *Serbian Zion* is Presbyter Aleksandar Čavka. The publisher of *Serbian Zion* is the Diocese of Srem of the Serbian Orthodox Church.



*Srećko Petrović*

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