

Visit to the St. Seraphim of Sarov Mission in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

DURING THEIR TRAVELS to our communities in the U.S. and Canada this past June, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki, and Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, travelled, in total, more than 14,000 miles. During one of their journeys, Archbishop Chrysostomos and Bishop Auxentios paid a visit to the St. Seraphim of Sarov mission in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and its pastor, the Reverend Dr. Michael Nedelsky. Father Michael is an associate professor of psychology at Augustana College, in Sioux Falls, where his wife, Presbyteria Barbara, is also an assistant professor of modern foreign languages.

Father Michael was received into our Exarchate several years ago from the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. (*See **Father Michael and the Chapel, below.***) He has for several decades served the small mis-



sion originally established in Sioux Falls by that Church, both as a layman and as a clergyman. Sadly, the mission has dwindled in number, over time, though Father Michael has faithfully honored his Priestly duties. The missions's Chapel, in the basement of Father Michael's large home, is handsomely adorned with traditional Russian iconography.

Father and Presbytera Barbara have two children who have dedicated themselves to the monastic life: Hierodeacon Samuel, who teaches at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York, and Rasophore-nun Lydia, who is a sister at the Convent of the Holy Angels, in Athens, Greece, a convent of the Holy Synod in Resistance and a dependency of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili.

