

Ordination of Hierodeacon Father Photii

ON DECEMBER 6, 2010 (Old Style), the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the Wonderworker, Monk Photii (Photios) (*below at left and at far right*), a brother of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, California, was ordained to the holy Diaconate by His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike.

Father Photii, after completing two years at Grossmont College, in El Cajon, California, and having transferred to the University of California at San Diego, made a pilgrimage to the Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery before the beginning of his first semester at UCSD. Moved by his visit—and despite being encouraged to finish his university education—he insisted on being received into the monastery, where he completed his novitiate and was tonsured a monk on Great Friday 2010.

The newly-ordained Hierodeacon is the son of Father Yakov and Presbytera Agnieszka Ferens, who serve our Exarchate parish of Saints Seraphim of Sarov and John of Kronstadt in San Diego. Father Photii, who will serve primarily in Slavonic (he was reared speaking Russian and English), is distinguished for his humility and dedication. □

