

## **Fraternal Meeting with His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad**

**D**URING THEIR short visit to the parish of the Holy Ascension of Christ in Rochester, New York, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Exarchs for the Holy Synod in America, were invited on October 11, 2011 (Old Style), by Mother Agapia, the Superior of the Convent of St. Nicholas, near Constantia,



**Left to right: Father Anthony Gunin, serving Priest at the convent, Archbishop Andronik, Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios. Metropolitan Agafangel, Father Gregory Kotliaroff, Father Vsevolod Dutikow, and in front, seated, Mother Agapia.**

New York, to meet with His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, while he was visiting the convent. The Metropolitan was accompanied by His Eminence, Archbishop Andronik of the Ottawa and Canada and Syracuse and Nikolskiy Diocese of the ROCA; the Archbishop's brother, Protopriest Gregory Kotliaroff; Archpriest Wsewolod Dutikow; and Mr. Dimitri Gontscharow, His Eminence's translator and Secretary of the Eastern American and New York Diocese of the ROCA.

The four Hierarchs and the attending clergy spoke at some length about the common vision of the Synod in Resistance and the ROCA in confronting the ills of world Orthodoxy and continuing, in a spirit of moderation but firm commitment, their joint witness. The Hierarchs agreed on the importance of a unified, pan-Orthodox witness by the ROCA, the Synod in Resistance, and our Sister Churches in Bulgaria and Romania. The fraternal sentiments and a sense of respectful collegiality marked this exchange of ideas.

After their discussions, the gathered clergy enjoyed the hospitality of the St. Nicholas Convent, which served a beautiful luncheon to all present.

