

Visit to Archbishop Andronik and the Mountain View Russian Orthodox Center in NY

On October 14, 2011 (Old Style), the last day of their recent visit to the Holy Ascension parish in Rochester, NY, Archbishop Chrysostomos and Bishop Auxentios, accompanied by the Deacon of the Rochester Church, Father Dr. Peter Bushunow, visited—at the insistent invitation of Archbishop Andronik—the new Mountain View spiritual center of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. Under the direction of Archbishop Andronik (a very close and much-loved friend of our American Exarchate’s Bishops and our faithful in Rochester), and with the blessing of Metropolitan Agafangel, the ROCA is reconstructing a beautiful former Roman Catholic convent, located on fifty acres of wooded land in a scenic area near Syracuse, NY.



The windows and doors in the main building of the complex, which contains forty rooms, a commercial kitchen, a large refectory, and several public rooms, are being replaced, and the attached chapel (*at far right in the photograph at right, below*) is being transformed into a traditional Orthodox Church. (*See the magnificent cherry wood tem-*

plon, or iconostasis, below, at left, under construction in the Church). The center will eventually house a monastic community, retreat and conference facilities, and a residence for Metropolitan Agafangel during his visits to the U.S.



Archbishop Andronik, who is known for his humility, diligent and active care for the Church, and spiritual commitment, is also a man of hospitable character. Thus, before their departure, he served his guests a fasting lunch, to which he had invited several pious Cypriot Greeks living near the monastery, who were especially pleased to meet and speak with Archbishop Chrysostomos in their native tongue. The short but intimate visit left all with feelings of true Christian fellowship and hope for the growth of traditionalist Orthodoxy in America.