

Ordination at the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA

On Tuesday, November 14, 2012 (Old Style), the minor Feast Day of St. Gregory Palamas, Deacon Father Joshua Vander Plaats was ordained to the rank of Presbyter by His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos at the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA. His Grace, Bishop Auxentios concelebrated with His Eminence, along with Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the monastery; one of the monastery Hieromonks, Father Gregory, one of the Hierodeacons, Father Photii, and the monastery Subdeacon, Father Chrysanthos; the married Priest who serves the nearby Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, Father George Mavromatis; and Subdeacon Philip Nicol, visiting from one of our parishes in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. A reception of wonderful fasting foods was held after the Ordination at the Convent of St. Elizabeth, the superb choir of which also chanted the Ordination, at the request of Archbishop Chrysostomos, mostly in English.

The newly ordained Presbyter, Father Joshua, 35 years of age, is a Probation Officer with the Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Probation Department. He is a graduate of Purdue University and holds a Master's Degree in Orthodox theology from the University of Balamand, in Lebanon. He is married, with two young sons



See at left, following the Hierarchical Liturgy and Ordination (left to right), Presbyteria Charis, the newly ordained Presbyter, Father Joshua, Father Chrysanthos (whose face is visible next to Father Joshua), Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios, and Subdeacon Philip Nicol.

(Michael and Gabriel), and his wife, Presbytera Charis, is expecting their third child.

Father Joshua will serve a tiny flock of some three young families in a Chapel—dedicated to the Holy Archangels and beautifully adorned in traditional Byzantine style—attached to the family’s home in Romney, IN. The small parish will provide another center for our Orthodox resisters scattered in the American heartland to avail themselves of the Holy Mysteries. We wish Father Joshua and Presbytera Charis and their small flock success in their God-pleasing work.