



*The Ordination of*

HIS GRACE

BISHOP GREGORY

*of*

NYSSA



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR CATHEDRAL  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012



HIS EMINENCE  
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS OF AMERICA  
*Presiding*

HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN ANTONY OF HIERAPOLIS

HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS OF ATLANTA

HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN SAVAS OF PITTSBURGH

HIS GRACE  
BISHOP DANIEL OF PAMPHILON



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**B**ishop-Elect Gregory was born in Charlotte, NC on Dec 7, 1958, with the baptismal name of George, the first of two children of Peter and Antonia Tatsis. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina



at Chapel Hill earning a BA degree in Biology (1981) and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte earning a MS degree in Biology (1989). Working for more than 20 years in the field of Cardiovascular Research at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC, he authored/co-authored over one hundred articles, abstracts, and book chapters.

A true son of the Church, from his early youth Bishop-Elect Gregory served in his home parish of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox

Cathedral in Charlotte, NC in various capacities including altar server, Sunday School teacher for 13 years and in several leadership positions including Parish Council President. He was also a founding member of St.

Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC where he served on the Parish Organizing Committee, as Sunday School teacher for four years, as a member of the choir and as its first Parish Council President.

After taking part in a mission trip to Alaska sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Bishop-Elect Gregory felt the calling to pursue his life-long dream of studying for the Holy Priesthood. Leaving his secular job in early 2003, he entered Holy

Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA in the Fall of 2003 and graduated in May of 2006 with the Masters of Divinity degree.

Bishop-Elect Gregory was ordained a Deacon at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC on November 4, 2006 by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta. He was tonsured a Monk at Agia Lavra Monastery in Kalavryta, Greece on January 17, 2007, receiving the name Grigorios with St. Gregory Palamas as his Patron Saint. He was ordained a priest at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA on January 28, 2007 also by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on the same day. On February 1, 2007, he was appointed as the Ierokyrix (Itinerant Preacher) of the Metropolis of Atlanta. On September 14, 2007, he received the offikion (rank) of Confessor at the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Chapel in Atlanta, GA.

Serving in his role as Itinerant Preacher and Confessor, Bishop-Elect Gregory traveled extensively throughout the Metropolis of Atlanta, where

he led parish retreats, heard confessions and provided spiritual direction to countless numbers of clergy and faithful. Recognizing his affinity for youth ministry and his administrative skills, he was given the responsibility of overseeing all youth programs in the Metropolis of Atlanta.

Bishop-Elect Gregory also served as the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Raleigh, NC from December 20, 2010 until May 31, 2011. From October 1, 2011 until September 30, 2012, he served as Dean of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans, LA, and as Vicar of the Western Conference of the Metropolis of Atlanta.

Bishop-Elect Gregory was nominated as successor to His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos by the Clergy of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. at a Special Assembly on July 14, 2012. He was canonically elected Titular Bishop of Nyssa and ruling Hierarch of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA by the Sacred and Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on August 30, 2012.

## THE SACRED MYSTERY OF ORDINATION TO THE EPISCOPATE

The Holy Episcopate is the third and highest order of ministry in the Orthodox Christian Church, the other two being, in descending order, the Priesthood and the Diaconate. Ordination to each of these ministries takes place within the context of the Divine Liturgy, each at a different liturgical moment. A Deacon is ordained by a Bishop late in the Liturgy, following the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, because his role is to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. A Deacon is elevated to Presbyter by a Bishop prior to the Consecration, because it is his distinguishing grace to invoke the Holy Spirit. A Bishop is ordained before the Scriptural readings, because it is his special role to preach and teach the Gospel, and also in order to ordain others. Whereas a single Bishop suffices for the ordination of a Deacon or Priest, the Holy Canons require that at least three Bishops participate in the elevation of a Priest to the Episcopacy.

An Episcopal ordination begins before the Divine Liturgy, when the Bishop-elect, vested in an epitachelion and phelonion and carrying the Holy Gospel, is escorted by two deacons through the Royal Doors to the center of the Solea. There the Archbishop and his concelebrant Hierarchs are seated on their thrones, facing the Sanctuary. The Bishop-elect opens the Holy Gospel and reads a document containing his Confession of Faith.



## THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

*After the Archbishop enters the Altar, the Bishop-Elect receives the blessing of the Archbishop and puts on the epitrachelion, phelonion and pectoral cross. When the Archbishop is ready to exit the Altar after the Doxology, the two senior Deacons exit through the Royal Doors and exclaim three times:*

“High Priests [Hierarchs] come forth!”

*The celebrating Hierarchs exit while the clergy sing in the traditional Prostopinia, the Tropar of Pentecost. The Hierarchs take their places in the order of seniority. At the conclusion of the Tropar, the two senior deacons return to the Altar through the Royal Doors, and when they have made a metanoia, they bring the Bishop-Elect, who is holding the Gospel Book in his hands, to the “tail” (the back portion) of the Aetos and the first Deacon intones:*

“Let us attend!”

*Then the Archbishop addresses the Bishop-Elect, saying:*

“Why have you come here and what do you seek from us?”

*The Bishop-Elect answers:*

“The ordination of the Hierarchal grace.”

*The Archbishop then asks:*

“And what do you believe?”

*Then the Bishop-Elect opens the Gospel Book and says:*

I, Gregory, by the mercy of God, Bishop-elect of the Holy Diocese of Nyssa, of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A, duly declare by the signing with my own hand that:

I believe in one God, Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten,  
not created, of one essence with the Father,  
through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,  
and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
And He will come again with glory to judge the living  
and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the  
Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
Who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to  
come. Amen.

*Then the Deacons, after making a metanoia, bring the Bishop-Elect  
before the Archbishop while they say:*

The Archdeacon: Give the Command!

The 2nd deacon: Command!

The Archdeacon: Give the command, O Holy Master,  
for the one who is presented before you!

*The Archbishop blesses the Bishop-Elect with the sign of the Cross as he says:*

“The grace of the Holy Spirit be with you.”

*The Choir then begins to chant “Eis Polla Eti (Many Years)” while the Bishop-Elect kisses the hand of the Archbishop and in turn by ranking, the hands of all the concelebrating Hierarchs. As he kisses their hands, the Hierarchs kiss his forehead (and shoulders). When this action is completed, the Deacons return the Bishop-Elect to the Aetos, where this time he stands in the center of it.*

*The Archbishop then says:*

”Further declare to us your adherence to the Ecumenical Councils and the Sacred Canons of the Holy Church.”

*The Bishop-Elect continues as follows:*

Furthermore, I express my agreement and acceptance of the Seven Holy and Ecumenical Councils, and of those Local Councils that were accepted and confirmed by the Ecumenical Councils, which were assembled to protect the Orthodox dogmas of the Church. I confess all definitions of the Right Faith and the Sacred Canons that were expounded by the Ecumenical Councils, as being guided by the illuminating Grace of the All-Holy Spirit. The blessed Assemblies delivered them to the Church for the adornment of the Holy Church of Christ, for the good ordering of morals in accordance with Apostolic traditions, and for the understanding of the teaching of the divine Gospel. All these I embrace with my whole heart and I will take care to guide the ministry allotted to me by divine will, and in accordance with them I will persevere in teaching all these things to the sacred Clergy and chosen People of the Lord who are entrusted to my spiritual flock.

And most diligently, it is my confession that I safeguard the unity of the faith in the bond of peace, and that whatever the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the Orthodox dogmatizes and honors, I also honor and will in no way alter – neither dogmas nor traditions, but adhering to them and teaching and preaching them in

the fear of God and with a clear conscience; and whatever has been condemned and rejected as being a strange teaching, those I also forever reject and renounce.

*Then the two first-ranking priests bring the Bishop-Elect before the Second-ranking Hierarch while they say:*

The 1st Priest: Give the Command!  
The 2nd Priest: Command!  
The 1st Priest: Give the command, O Holy Master,  
for the one who is presented before you!

*The Second-ranking Hierarch blesses the Bishop-Elect with the sign of the Cross as he says:*

“May the grace of the All-Holy and Life-creating Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.”

*The Choir then begins to chant “Eis Polla Eti (Many Years)” while the Bishop-Elect kisses the hand of the Second-ranking Hierarch, then the Archbishop’s, and in turn by ranking, the hands of all the concelebrating Hierarchs. As he kisses their hands, the Hierarchs kiss his forehead (and shoulders). When this action is completed, the Priests return the Bishop-Elect to the Aetos, where this time he stands at the top of it.*

*The Archbishop then says:*

”Further declare to us how you will preserve the peace of the Holy Church.”

*The Bishop-Elect continues as follows:*

I also promise to preserve the peace of the Church, and not to devise anything whatsoever which is contrary to it all the days of my life; and that I will, in all things, follow and obey His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome. Furthermore I promise, in the fear of God and with a reverend disposition, to maintain myself to the best of my ability unsullied by any evil intentions. I do also hereby affirm

that I will uphold as inviolate and irrefutable whatever prerogatives and privileges belong to the Apostolic, Patriarchal and Ecumenical Throne, until my last breath.

I, Gregory, by the mercy of God, Bishop-elect of the Holy Diocese of Nyssa, of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A, humbly submit this, my confession of faith, signed by my own hand.

*Then the Bishop-Elect returns the Holy Gospel to the Altar Table and signs the Confession of Faith. He removes the signed Confession of Faith from the Holy Gospel, places it in the Red Velvet folder, and is led by the two priests from the Altar Table to stand again at the top of the Aetos. The Bishop-Elect is then led by the two priests to the Archbishop to whom he submits his signed Confession of Faith, while the priests say:*

The 1st Priest:	Give the Command!
The 2nd Priest:	Command!
The 1st Priest:	Give the command, O Holy Master, for the one who is presented before you!

*Then the two first-ranking priests bring the Bishop-Elect before the Third-ranking Hierarch, who blesses the Bishop-Elect with the sign of the Cross as he says:*

“The grace of the Holy Spirit, through my humble person, proposes Your Grace, the Presbyter and Bishop-Elect, to be the Bishop of the Holy Diocese of Nyssa, of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.”

*The Choir then begins to chant “Eis Polla Eti (Many Years)” while the Bishop-Elect kisses the hand of Third-ranking Hierarch, then the Archbishop’s, and in turn by ranking, the hands of all the concelebrating Hierarchs. As he kisses their hands, the Hierarchs kiss his forehead (and shoulders). When this action is completed, the priests return the Bishop-Elect back inside the Altar where he vests in full priestly vesture. The priests return to their position to commence the Divine Liturgy which continues as normal until after the “Holy God”.*

*At this point two priests take the Bishop-Elect out of the Holy Altar from the North Door and lead him to the Beautiful Gate facing the Archbishop, while the priests say:*

The 1st Priest: Give the Command!  
The 2nd Priest: Command!  
The 1st Priest: Give the command, O Holy Master,  
for the one who is now presented before you!

*Then the Bishop-Elect is taken into the Altar by the two most senior Bishops, and a Throne is placed in front of the Altar Table for the Archbishop. The 3 Ordination Troparia are chanted in the customary manner.*

## ORDINATION HYMNS

### *Grave Tone*

O Holy Martyrs, you have fought the good fight and were crowned with glory. Entreat the Lord on our behalf, that He may have mercy on our souls.

### *Grave Tone*

Glory to you, O Christ our God, the Apostles' boast and pride, joy of the Martyrs, whose preaching is the Trinity, One in Essence.

### *Plagal of the Second Tone*

O Isaiah, dance for joy, for the Virgin was indeed with Child, and brought to birth a Son, Emmanuel, Who came as both God and man: "Day-at-the-Dawn" is His name. Exalting Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

*After circling the Holy Table three times, the Bishop-elect kneels on both knees before the Holy Altar, places his hands one on top of the other on the Holy Table, and rests his forehead on his hands. The Archbishop covers the candidate's head first with his omophorion and then with the Holy Gospel, opened and facing downwards.*

*All the ordaining Hierarchs place their right hands upon the Holy Gospel as the Archbishop exclaims:*

With the permission and at the directive of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and by the vote and approval of the Most Reverend Metropolitans of the Holy and Sacred Synod, the Divine Grace, which ever heals what is weak and completes what is lacking, ordains the most devout Presbyter Gregory Bishop of the God-protected Diocese of Nyssa, of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA. Let us, therefore, pray for him, that the Grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him.

## PRAYER OF EPISCOPACY

*Then the Deacon says:*

Let us attend.

*As the clergy and the faithful kneel, the choir chants repeatedly,*

Lord, have mercy.

*The ordaining Archbishop completes the invocation of the Holy Spirit:*

Master and Lord our God, who through Your all-praiseworthy Apostle Paul have established for us diverse orders and offices - first, Apostles, then Prophets, and thirdly, Teachers - to serve and officiate the divine celebration of Your pure and undefiled mysteries upon Your Holy Altar: grant, O Lord of all, that this man, who has been chosen and deemed worthy to be placed under the yoke of the Gospel and to enter the episcopal office by the laying on of hands by me, a sinner, and by my co-celebrant and fellow bishops here present, may be strengthened by the inspiration, power, and grace of Your Holy Spirit, as You



did strengthen Your holy Apostles and Prophets, as You anointed Kings, as You consecrated Archpriests. Make his episcopacy to be blameless; adorn him with all dignity; make him holy that he may be worthy to ask for those things which are for the salvation of the people, and that You may hear his prayer. For holy is Your Name and glorious is Your Kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.

## THE PETITIONS

*The second Bishop then offers the following litany in a low voice, while the choir continues to chant, "Lord, have mercy":*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the Holy Churches of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, our Archbishop Demetrios, for his Priesthood, for help, preservation, peace, health and salvation, and for the work of his hands, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servant of God Gregory, who is now ordained Bishop, and for his salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That our good God who loves mankind may grant him to exercise his high priesthood blamelessly and without stain, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those in need of help and assistance from God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and need, let

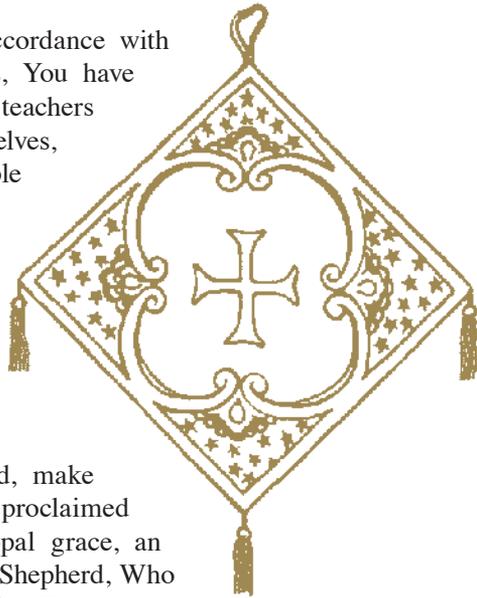
us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole live to Christ our God.

*When these petitions are completed, the Archbishop, with his hand still on the newly ordained Bishop's head, offers the following prayer:*

O Lord, our God, in accordance with Your divine plan for us, You have appointed for our sake teachers of like nature with ourselves, because it is not possible for the nature of man to endure the Essence of the Divinity, that they may stand by Your throne and offer to You sacrifices and oblations on behalf of all Your people. Do You, O Christ our Lord, make this man, who has been proclaimed a steward of the episcopal grace, an imitator of You, the true Shepherd, Who did lay down Your life for Your sheep; make him a guide for the blind, a light for those in darkness, an instructor of the unwise, a teacher of children, a lamp to the world, so that when he has accomplished the work of perfecting the souls of those entrusted to him in this present life, he may stand without reproach before Your throne and receive the great reward which You have prepared for those who have courageously contended for the preaching of Your Gospel.



For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us and to You do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.

*The Holy Gospel is returned to its place on the Holy Table and the newly ordained Bishop rises from kneeling. The Archbishop presents him to the people and declares:*

Axios!

## THE VESTING

*The newly ordained Bishop is vested by his fellow bishops, who add articles particular to his rank to the vestments that he shares with the priests and deacons. As he puts on each new item, a short prayer is said, generally taken from the Book of Psalms; the Archbishop exclaims, "Axios!" and the people chant the acclamation three times in the traditional Carpatho-Russian style.*

*When putting on the Sakkos:*

May Your high priests, O Lord, be clothed in righteousness, and Your righteous ones shall rejoice with exultation, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*When putting on the Epigonation:*

Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, in Your splendor, and in Your beauty. Stretch out Your bowstrings, go forth and prevail in the cause of truth, gentleness and justice, and may Your right hand lead You to wondrous deeds; always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*When putting on the omophorion:*

When You took upon Your shoulders human nature which had gone astray, O Christ, You bore it to heaven, unto Your God and Father; always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*When putting on the encolpion (using the same pectoral cross he has worn to this point)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The Hierarchs welcome the newly ordained Bishop into their ranks with a brotherly kiss. The Divine Liturgy continues until the Enthronement.*

## ENTHRONEMENT AND CONCLUSION OF LITURGY

*After the chanting of the hymn “Blessed be the Name of the Lord,” the Archbishop once again presents the newly ordained Bishop from the Beautiful Gate to the congregation and now bestows upon him the final liturgical items associated with episcopacy. With the bestowal of each liturgical item he exclaims: Axios! (He is worthy!)*

*The congregation responds each time, as before, with the three-fold chanting of the traditional Carpatho-Russian: “Axios! Axios! Axios!”*

*The Archbishop presents him with the Pastoral Staff, the emblem of Episcopal authority that the Church entrusts to him, saying:*

Receive this Staff to shepherd the flock of Christ entrusted to you. To the obedient let it be a help and a support. With it, lead the disobedient and the wayward to admonishment and instruction.

*As he sets the Mitre on the Bishop’s head, the Archbishop says:*

The Lord has set upon your head a crown of precious stones. You asked life of Him, and He gave you length of days; always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Upon receiving the Episcopal staff and Mitre, the Chancellor ascends the pulpit and reads the Message of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.*

*Following the Message of His All Holiness, the newly ordained Bishop is led for the first time to the Episcopal Throne by two hierarchs who are preceded by the two deacons.*

*The Archbishop addresses the new Bishop, and the Bishop in turn responds.*

*After the remarks are concluded, the Archdeacon says, “Let us pray to the Lord” The newly ordained Bishop blesses the faithful with the cross while saying, “The blessing of the Lord be upon you...”*

*The newly ordained Bishop offers the Dismissal Prayer. During the Dismissal Prayer the choir chants, “Ton Despotin kai Archierea imon” as the newly enthroned Bishop blesses with a cross.*

*“Ton Despotin kai Archierea imon, Kyrie phyllate, eis polla eti Despota, eis polla eti Despota, eis polla eti Despota!”*

*“Our Master and our High Priest - O Lord keep him safe! Many Years Master, Many Years Master, Many Years Master!”*

*Then the “Acclamations” are intoned by the deacons. After each invocation, the Choir answers: “Is polla eti despota!”*

To our Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, Is polla eti despota!

To our Most Reverend Archbishop Demetrios of America, Is polla eti despota!

To our Most Reverend Metropolitan Antony of Hierapolis, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, and Bishop Daniel of Pamphilon, Is polla eti despota!

To our newly consecrated Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Is polla eti despota!

To all the priesthood, diaconate, monastic communities, and all Orthodox Christians, may the Lord give a quiet life, prosperity, manifold blessings and many years!

*\* It is customary for the newly ordained Bishop to bless the clergy from the Throne at the end of the Service. The people will receive the blessing of the newly-ordained Bishop at the conclusion of the dinner festivities.*



AXIOS!  
AXIOS!  
AXIOS!

