

## FOREWORD

The subtitle of this book "A History of the Orthodox Church in North America in the Twentieth Century" was the original title of the Thesis presented by this writer to the Faculty of the Leningrad Theological Academy in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Candidate of Theology in June 1971. On the 7th of October 1971 the Thesis was successfully defended by this writer before the Faculty of the Leningrad Theological Academy and two days later on the 9th of October 1971 on the Patronal Feast of the Leningrad Academy—the Feast of the Apostle and Evangelist Saint John the Theologian—this writer was formally granted the degree on behalf of the Faculty by His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad and Novgorod. At the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the morning as well as the academic exercise in the afternoon, the community of the Academy as well as many visiting Hierarchs, Clergy, and faithful solemnly celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the re-establishment of the Theological Academy as a worthy successor and inheritor of the noble academic tradition of the old St. Petersburg Theological Academy.

This writer was not unmindful of the possibility that his Thesis might be of interest and value to others not of the Leningrad Theological Academy community but it was only toward the end of 1972 that a real possibility of publishing "The Quest for Orthodox Church Unity in America" presented itself.

It must be acknowledged in all candor that this writer was sorely tempted to add a "second" epilogue which would have recorded two more years of Orthodox Church life in America together with some relevant observations. This temptation, however, was successfully overcome in large measure because it was felt that with a little more time a more balanced perspective might prove possible. Suffice it to say that the events of the last two years (1971 and 1972) have not seemed to justify the optimism of those who welcomed the autocephaly as a major step in the unification of Orthodoxy in America in the immediate future nor has it justified the fears of those who opposed the autocephaly on the grounds that it would only bring about a greater fragmentation of an already fragmented American Orthodoxy.

Put another way, there have been both positive and negative manifestations in the body ecclesiastic known as American Orthodoxy as a result of the autocephaly and a little more time should be given before even a preliminary analysis and evaluation can be properly executed.

It is the hope of the author that a second edition of this book will prove necessary in due time and, if such is the case, a sincere effort will be made to update the book in the same spirit of Christian love and scholarly objectivity which the author has tried to be guided by in this first edition.

The "Introduction" is identical with the one used as the Thesis Introduction and it should be said in passing this present book is identical with the Thesis except for obvious additions and a few minor changes.