



**8-9 October 2014 : St. Sergius Theological Institut  
90th academic year**

On October 8, 2014, the 90th academic year at St. Sergius Theological Institute (founded in 1925) began with the celebration of the Liturgy of the feast of Saint Serge of Radonezh. The Divine Liturgy was presided by the rector of the Institute, Archbishop Job of Telmessos, in the presence of Bishop Nestor of Korsun (Moscow Patriarchate), who came for the occasion, Archpriest Nicolas Cernokrak (the Dean of the Institute) and concelebrating priests, professors, students and faithful. After the Divine Liturgy presided by His Eminence Job of Telmessos, surrounded by the dean, professors, students as well as friends of the Institute, the rector of St. Serge reminded all students in his speech that the objective of their theological studies consisted not only of theology as an academic field, but also training in service to the Church, emphasizing the inseparable link between

the discipline of studies and ecclesial experience. Next, the dean, in the presence of the rector and professors, welcomed the new students during the autumn session presenting the results of the previous academic year and the prospects for the new academic year of 2014-2015. Following the September session, three students have completed their courses at the Licence (Bachelor) level: two regular students and a student of the Theological Distance Education (DTE). One student has also completed the course of Theological Education by Correspondence (FTC) and received the corresponding diploma. This year, the Institute has welcomed eleven new regular students in the first year of the Licence (Bachelor) cycle, and two new students in the second and third year of the same cycle (the first having studied by DTE and the second coming from

## Holy Land

FROM OCTOBER 20 TO 30, 34 PILGRIMS FROM ALL OVER FRANCE AS WELL AS GREAT-BRITAIN TOOK PART IN THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND. IN SPITE OF A TROUBLED SITUATION IN THE REGION, WE FOLLOWED THE ENTIRE INITIALLY PLANNED PROGRAM. WE STARTED OUR JOURNEY IN GALILEE; ON THE MORROW OF OUR ARRIVAL WE CELEBRATED A LITURGY IN THE NAZARETH CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION. WE PARTICULARLY PRAYED FOR ARCHBISHOP GABRIEL OF COMANE, WHO IN 2011 HAD CONCELEBRATED THERE WITH PATRIARCH THEOPHILOS III. THEN WE VISITED DIFFERENT SITES AROUND LAKE TIBERIAS, THEN CANA AND MOUNT TABOR. ON OUR WAY FROM NAZARETH TO JERUSALEM WE STOPPED IN THE VERY HEART OF SAMARIA, AT JACOB'S WELL WHERE





the Russian Orthodox Seminary in France). Eight new students are registered as first year Master's students, of which six received their Licence (Bachelor's) at the Institute (three regular students, and three DTE) and two from elsewhere. Finally, there are six new candidates hoping to pursue Doctoral studies at the Institut. In his address marking the beginning of the new academic year, the Father Dean expressed his deep hope that the "message of love and knowledge of the holy apostle John the Theologian would be

incarnated in this establishment." He concluded his speech with an address to the rector of the Institute: "Your eminence, we are counting very much on your teaching experience and above all, your pastoral prayers. We have prayed together over the past two days so that in the future, we will be able to work in this same spirit communion for the renewal of this Institute which is so dear to us all. Under your omophorion, we are moving towards the celebration of the Institution's centenary, which bears the traces of challenges, but also of faith in the Resurrection. "

For this academic year of 2014-2015 at St. Sergius Institute, marked by great financial difficulties, the number of total regular students has risen to fifty-four, to which eighty-five DTE students and eighty TEC students in French and Russian have been added, not to mention the growing number of auditors. It is also worth noting that thirteen regular students (24% of the total) are from Belgium, Ethiopia, France, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom, Russia, Serbia and the Ukraine, which attests to the vitality of the teaching given by the Institute, and the permanence of its pan-Orthodox vocation for the years to come.



## Holy Land

JESUS CHRIST MET THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. WE ALSO VENERATED THE RELICS OF THE NEW MARTYR PHILOUMENOS, MURDERED NEAR THE WELL BY FANATICS IN 1979. THEN WE STAYED FOUR DAYS IN BETHLEHEM TO VISIT VARIOUS SITES IN JUDEA, THE MONASTERIES IN THE DESERT, BETHANY AND JERICO. WE MANAGED TO ATTEND THE LITURGY IN THE BETHLEHEM GROTTA OF THE NATIVITY WITH HUNDREDS OF PILGRIM JOSTLING AROUND. FOLLOWING THE TRADITION OF ORTHODOX PILGRIMS, WE SPENT THE NIGHT FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ANASTASIS (THE HOLY SEPULCHRE) TO TAKE PART IN THE NIGHT LITURGY PRESIDED BY ARCHBISHOP THEODOSIOS OF SEBASTIA AND METROPOLITAN BARNABAS OF CHEBOKSARY AND CHUVASHIA. MORE THAN 500 PILGRIMS WERE PRESENT IN THE CHURCH. WE SPENT FOUR DAYS IN JERUSALEM VISITING ALL THE HOLY PLACES IN THE CITY AND AROUND IT. ON TUESDAY WE CELEBRATED THE LITURGY

IN GETHSEMANE IN THE CHURCH OF THE TOMB OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. THEN WE VISITED SEVERAL SITES OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. ON THE NEXT DAY WE WENT TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT CONSTANTINE AND HELEN, WHERE EVERY DAY PATRIARCH THEOPHILOS READS PSALMS DURING MATINS AND CELEBRATES THE LITURGY TOGETHER WITH ALL BISHOPS AND MONKS PRESENT, AND A FEW PILGRIMS. FINALLY WE WERE INVITED TO SPEND OUR LAST NIGHT AT THE ANASTASIS, WHERE A PONTIFICAL LITURGY WAS CELEBRATED, PRESIDED BY ARCHBISHOP THEOPHANES OF GERASON TOGETHER WITH BISHOP JOHN JUST ARRIVED FROM UKRAINE. THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ALL THE GRACES HE BESTOWED UNTO US DURING THIS WONDERFUL PILGRIMAGE!  
FR YANNICK (PROVOST)





**First anniversary  
of the repose of  
Archbishop Gabriel  
(26 -10 -2013)**



On Sunday 19th October after the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Job went into the necropolis of the Archdiocese in the crypt of the church of the Dormition of the Mother of God (Sainte Geneviève des Bois – France) to celebrate a lity for the blessed memory of Archbishop Gabriel (de Wilder 1945-2013) who administered the archdiocese between 2003 and 2013 and for whom it was the first anniversary of his repose. The congress ACER-MJO (Orthodox Youth Movement) which was held on the 25th and 26th of October in the Parisian area was the occasion for the young members of the movement to evoke the memory of Archbishop Gabriel.

Archbishop Job also commemorated in the lity all the bishops of the Archdioceses who repose in the necropolis:

Metropolitan Eulogios (Gueorgievsky 1868-1946) who was sent by the saint Patriarch Tikhon in the 1920's to administer the parishes of Russian refugees in Western Europe. The church of the Dormition was the last he consecrated in October 1939. Also reposing in the necropolis are Metropolitan Vladimir (Tikhonitski), Archbishops George (Tarassov), George (Wagner), Serge (Konovalov) And Gabriel (De Wilder), Bishops Cassien (Bezobrazov), Romain (Zolotov), Methodios (Kulhman), Alexander (Semenoff Tian-Chansky), John (Leontchoukov) and priests George (Spassky) and Dimitri (Troïtski). The church's Architect, Albert Benois also reposes there with his wife Margret, together they painted the frescos of the Dormition and of its crypt as well as the crypt of the cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky in Paris.

For more than 50 years St. Alexis of Ugine (Medvedkov) rested in the necropolis of the church of the Dormition. Since his canonisation in 2004 the relics of St Alexis are venerated in the Orthodox Monastery of the Protection of the Mother of God in Bussy. ✠



BELOW IS THE WELCOME SPEECH DELIVERED TO US ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 23RD BY HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM AND PALESTINE THEOPHILOS III.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear pilgrims, First of all permit me to welcome the groups of pilgrims in the Holy Land who are in front of me with the priests accompanying and guiding them. I am happy to greet you in the headquarters of our Church in the holy city of Jerusalem, who have come from Russia, Byelorussia, Greece, as well as the group from France, members of the Exarchate of the holy Church of Constantinople, lead by our dear father Yannick.

Today, I want to remind you how essential a pilgrimage is for the spiritual life of every Christian. Indeed, visiting Jerusalem and other holy places will be for each of you an exceptional opportunity to improve your faith, and to better understand the life of Jesus Christ and the paths he took on this land where he chose to become incarnate. Jerusalem the holy Zion is the place where our Lord died on the Cross and where he resurrected. By coming here, by venerating the very place where the events at the very heart of our faith took place, we take an even fuller part in the salvation offered by God to the entire humankind.

When attending the Liturgies take the advantage of this opportunity to receive the holy Eucharist: you will be even more intimately nurtured by the source of life that God offers us. When you arrive on the Holy Land, you become disciples; you follow the same path as all the saints who lived at the time of the Old Testament – prophets, apostles, martyrs, Fathers, ascetics – simply because this land is in itself a witness of all the events that took place here. At the end of your pilgrimage, you will in a way be like the Myrrh bearers who, having believed in our Lord's Resurrection, were sent to deliver their testimony. In your turn you will have to bear witness in your parishes and around you, of all that you have seen and lived here in Palestine.

The Holy Sites have a great spiritual significance; it is the reason why the Fathers called Palestine Holy. For you Orthodox Christians, Palestine's holiness is also in the opportunity it offers you, when you come here, to confirm the unity between all Orthodox, members of the same and one Church. However, the unity of the Orthodox Church and of its faithful does not prevent each

Church and each people to be also unique, just as each person is unique in front of God. Orthodox Christians coming here from all over the world affirm the unity in Christ of the people they represent without disregarding the specificities of their cultures.

The Holy Sites are important, also because it is here that our Lord became incarnate for man's salvation. He fully took over the human nature and associated it to His divinity. We can experience this during the Holy Liturgy, when we take part spiritually yet concretely in the humanity and the divinity of our Lord.

In a way it is possible to say that, visiting the places sanctified by our Lord Himself and by all the saints who preceded you on this land, praying and thus acquiring an even deeper understanding of your faith, represent what can be called a fifth Gospel; indeed your pilgrim will represent a new milestone in your life as Christians. I wish you all a pious pilgrim; be our Lord with you in your journey and bless you.

† Patriarch Théophilos III

## PASTORAL VISIT : CHURCH OF THE DORMITION (FR-STE GENEVIÈVE DES BOIS)



On Sunday 19th October, in response to an invitation from the Community, Archbishop Job came for a pastoral visit to the church of the Dormition of which he is the rector (Sainte Geneviève des Bois, near Paris).

Originally intended as the church for the Russian cemetery, the church of the Dormition has housed since its foundation, a lively community whose activities accompany the liturgical year. Monthly catechism for children and adults, pilgrimage of St Nicholas, feast of the Nativity for the children (in 2013 the play took place at the "Maison Russe" [Russian House] for elderly people in Ste. Geneviève des Bois). Then in the spring, was a week-end under canvas for the children who come to Sunday school in association with the crypt of the cathedral; hosting of singing courses; ecumenical meetings, and meetings with associations such as the youth movements ACER-MJO and N.O.V. VITIAZ.

Presiding over the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Job underlined the importance of Love incarnated by Christ in his homily about the Gospel of the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Luke 6, 31-36). Archbishop Job commemorated Archbishop Gabriel of blessed memory on the first anniversary of his repose in the Lord.

After the Eucharistic Liturgy, on behalf of the community, as celebrating priest and assistant to the rector, Fr Daniel thanked Archbishop Job for his visit that coincides with the 75th anniversary of the church on the Dormition's consecration as well as the 10th anniversary of Saint Alexis of Ugine's canonisation. Vladyka gave a "gramota" (diploma) to Mrs. Tatiana N.Chomcheff as a thanks for more than 40 years of service in the church of the Dormition and on the committee of the maintenance of tombs in the Russian cemetery, the whole community sang a triple "Axios".

After the feast and making the most of the beautiful sunshine, the community regrouped around its rector for a warm discussions part of our monthly catechism for adults and children. In response to the community's request Vladyke has promised to come regularly to meet us and to celebrate in this important place of archdiocese.



### CHURCH OF THE DORMITION

The first stone of the church (zakladka) was laid on the 7th April 1938 and the cross on the dome of the church was blessed on Sunday 27th November 1938. The day of the Protection of the Mother of God, and a few weeks after the beginning of the second World War, Metropolitan Eulogios (1868-1946) of blessed memory founder of the Archdiocese consecrated the church of the Dormition. It was the last church consecrated by Metropolitan Eulogios.

All of the initial architecture was the work of the architect Albert BENOIS (son of the famous Alexander Benois). He designed the church according to the Novgorod style, end of 15th century, and the bell tower in a fashion similar to the Pskov style. Albert Benois and his wife Margaret decorated the frescoes of the church on the theme of the feasts of the Mother of God and the necropolis on the theme of Monasteries of Russia. The calligrapher who painted the legends on the frescoes was Count Cheremetiev, "Humble sacristan of the church". The wooden iconostasis was constructed by General GREKOFF and the icons painted by Michael M. Fedoroff, who collected funds for the construction of the church, and by Princess Lvov, members of the "Icons" ("Icônes") Association created in 1927 in Paris and presided over by Vladimir Riabouchynski. Theses iconographers were inspired by the ancient Russian iconographic tradition.





Our Archbishop, His Eminence Job, honoured us with his presence for our patronal feast on the 11th and 12th of October, at the celebration of the Vigil followed by the Divine Liturgy, in the company of Fathers Georges Ashkov, rector, and Panteleimon. He also participated in the parish council.

His participation was warmly welcomed by the members of the council, especially considering the state of the building and the renovations that must take place in order to assure the security and regular functioning of the parish.

Our Orthodox parish in Biarritz has a relatively short history (founded in 1892). The first community was composed mainly of the Russian aristocracy, who were living in France or who would come to Biarritz during the “Russian seasons”.

Everything changed after the revolution in 1917, when Europe welcomed émigrés from Soviet Russia. All the credit for the maintenance of the building of the church of Biarritz and the preservation of the Orthodox tradition dates back to the community of Russian émigrés from this time. Over the last twenty years, our parish has grown: along with the descendants of white Russian émigrés, new parishioners of various nationalities- Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Georgian, Moldavian- have moved to the region, as well as francophone Orthodox.

Built in the Byzantine style, our church adorns the city of Biarritz and attracts many tourists. However, the proximity to the ocean creates some difficulties.

In 2006 we envisioned a complete restoration. However, the enormous cost - at the time estimated as about one million euros - greatly exceeded the financial capabilities of our parish, which consists of fifty faithful. Our attempts to raise funds and to find patrons did not have the expected results. As the experts did not indicate immediate danger, we have made minor repairs needed (renovation of windows, etc ...) that were within our reach.

Since July 2014, renovations for security's sake have become an urgent matter. This is what recent assessments revealed following damage caused by bad weather last winter. It was impossible to carry out the work immediately, as we had to wait for the priorities and estimates specified by experts. Our priority today is no longer recovery of the entire building, but to ensure the security of the building as it is open to the public. The request for classification as a historic monument has been made which will lend some financial support, but will also involve constraints.

In our liturgical life we follow the Julian calendar and Russian rites. However, we also take the Greek tradition of the Mother Church and the renewal of liturgical theology and experience of Russian emigration of the twentieth century into account. We celebrate in both Slavonic and French, the homily and the readings are always in the two languages. Our community is alive and active. Religious and church festivals, feasts, catechism, the testimony of Orthodox culture in French: this is firstly the manifestation of our faith and also allows us to unite and learn to live the Christian faith

The Russian Cultural Association of Biarritz (A.C.O.R.B.), the proprietor of the building, has been responsible for its maintenance since June 4th, 1924. So far, it has assured the ongoing maintenance and operating costs itself. Now composed of 43 active members, it is unable to assume the work of restoration needed to secure the building for public use. Today, our small community needs your help. How can you help us? Whatever you can give, be it your invaluable prayers, be it a donation.

Please see our website for more information :  
[eglise-orthodoxe-biarritz.com](http://eglise-orthodoxe-biarritz.com)