



METROPOLITAN OF EASTERN AMERICA AND NEW YORK
FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA
75 E. 93rd Street New York, NY 10128 USA Tel: (917) 848-9706, (917) 543-5199. Fax: (212) 534-1798

May 6 20 15

No 5 - 7 / 15

**Most Reverend brother Archpastors, most honored fathers and concelebrants, monastics,
beloved brethren and sisters in Christ,**

Christ is Risen!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, with the blessing of His Grace, Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America, and through the united efforts of Orthodox faithful throughout North America and abroad, plans have been developed to build a church center dedicated to the Hawaiian Iveron icon of the Mother of God.

Since October 6, 2007, the Hawaiian Iveron icon of the Mother of God has given heavenly myrrh as a consolation to the faithful in order to bring everyone closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. This smaller replica of the Montreal Iveron icon of the Mother of God has followed the same path of world wide pilgrimage, coming to all believers with the message of hope, love and faith. It is most noble and proper that efforts be made to construct a suitable church in honor of the Mother of God on Hawaiian soil. This is a sacred podvig, or spiritual struggle, that we must all work toward fulfilling. It will become for us a humble expression of our unworthy gratitude to our Lord and His holy Mother for the incalculable blessings we have all received.

The Orthodox Hawaiian Iveron Icon Association, OHIA, was founded in Delaware with my primatial blessing in 2012 by several individuals dedicated to the spiritual mission of the Holy Icon. This mission is the continued travel of the holy icon to Orthodox faithful throughout the world and the establishment of a permanent church complex dedicated to the Iveron Mother of God in the Islands of Hawaii. OHIA is under my direct spiritual direction. Subdeacon Nectarios, the custodian of the icon, serves as my liaison and is assisted by executive board members: Madame Tatiana Paley of the Galitzine noble Family, Evgenia Hunter, Herman Madden, and Hermione Madden. OHIA is a recognized U.S. 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The OHIA website may be accessed with the following address: www.iveron.org.

Thank you to each and everyone who will participate in the giving of their time and resources to build this sacred home, this temple in honor of the Hawaiian Iveron icon of the Mother of God. As it is recited during the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, "Blessing those that bless Thee, O Lord, and sanctifying those that trust in Thee, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, preserve the fullness of Thy Church, sanctify those that love the beauty of Thy house." May God bless this holy endeavor on the island of Hawaii!

With love in the risen Christ,

+ Hilarion

Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York,
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

