

# CONSECRATED BISHOP OF QUEBEC CITY



Laying-on-of-hands

etery and Saint Seraphim parish, Rawdon, QC, an obedience which he fulfilled until 2007.

In addition to his pastoral duties in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America, he worked full-time in a local Montréal hospital until December 2008.

On April 2, 2009, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, elevated Igumen Irénée to the rank of Archimandrite, and elected him Auxiliary Bishop for His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada, with the title of Bishop of Québec City.

The Archdiocese of Canada has announced that, in conjunction with the consecration of Archimandrite Irénée, the wonder-working Pochaiv Mother of God icon was visiting Ottawa as part of a Canada-wide tour.

## ABOUT EPISCOPACY

As per His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah the episcopacy presents the ultimate ascetic and spiritual challenge: the challenge of complete conversion to Christ, the transformation of mind and heart by repentance, in order that one elected to be a bishop may say with St Paul, «I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live in the Son of God» (Gal 2:20). To die to self, to empty oneself, to humble oneself even unto death—this is the calling of the bishop, because his calling is to manifest Christ wholly and completely, by identifying with Him and actualizing His Presence. Though there are many tasks and jobs associated with the episcopacy, administrative, pastoral and liturgical, it is not so much about the «job» as it is about the person; and that person is not the bishop, but rather, Christ.

The bishop is not only high priest, but hierarch: the source of sanctification, as all ministries are established by the ordination of the bishop. This defines the nature of Episcopal leadership. Leadership in the Orthodox Church is not about organizational ability, political acumen and all the interpersonal tools of communication. These are important; but they are not of the essence. Real leadership in the Church is first and foremost spiritual leadership: attaining, imparting and actualizing the Vision and experience of the Kingdom. Only by first attaining this vision ourselves, the di-

vine theoria of the Kingdom of God, can we attain the discernment necessary to «rightly divide the word of Truth,» to rightly distribute the gifts of grace, and to discern those worthy to bear such ministries, and have the ability to fulfill them. Only by ascetic self-denial can we exercise true discernment—the vision of the will of God, and how to fulfill it—free from any selfish or self-serving agendas. Then our leadership will be true: we will be able to lead people to Christ and the Kingdom, and to manifest the Kingdom in our midst, by constantly renewing that vision of the Kingdom, through our prayer and worship and through our works of charity and outreach.

Real Episcopal leadership must be manifest in action: the care for the clergy and faithful, most especially the poor and needy, those trapped in the poverty of loneliness and isolation. The bishop is called to establish churches and monasteries, not simply as liturgical centers, but as the means by which the Church reaches out to the world, to spread the Gospel of repentance and forgiveness, and thus to heal and reconcile those broken and fallen, lonely and despairing, to God. The bishop is called to preach and teach, to evangelize and bring Christ to the world, and to bring those outside the Church to Christ. The bishop is called to form men and women for the service of the Church, as clergy, monastics, lay leaders, and all as disciples. He must lead them in the spiritual quest for the virtues through self-denial, by his life first, and then by his teaching. He must discern the gifts God has given each person, and equip and bless each person to fulfill their ministry, thereby fulfilling their personhood in the communion of persons, which is the Body of Christ.

The bishop cannot do any of this in isolation; the episcopate exists only in relation to the whole community. The bishop's ultimate ministry is to bring together the whole community of the Church, so that with a common vision and common activity the whole body works together in synergy with the will of God. Thus, the bishop recapitulates the whole church entrusted to him, not only in a mystical sacramental sense, but in common action, held together in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of Peace.



His Eminence, Archbishop SERAPHIM blesses with the holy water Bishop Elect Irenee (Rochon)



Metropolitan asks Bishop Elect how does he believe



Proclamation of Faith



Rite of Acceptance by Archimandrite Irenee

