

. . . continued from p. 7:

Then in January of 2005, he arrived in Canada to complete the process of naturalization, and began studying at the University of Sherbrooke in the Orthodox department of the Theology Faculty. He received a B.A. and an M.A. from Sherbrooke in theology. Presently, he is studying for a Ph.D. there in the same field.

On 16 June 2008, he was tonsured a stavrophone monk by Higoumen Irénée (Rochon) at St-Benoît-de-Nursie in Montréal. Following his priestly ordination, he was blessed by Archbishop Seraphim to serve in St-Benoît. Fr Silouan is also by profession a tailor of ecclesiastical vestments and an iconographer (<http://eglivest.canalblog.com>).



Hieromonk Silouan

New deacon ordained For All Saints' in Victoria BC

On 31 January 2009, parishioners of All Saints of Alaska in Victoria, plus a good number of the candidate's family and friends, roared a resounding "Axios!" to the diaconal ordination of Achilleas Kasapi. A lifetime Orthodox Christian, and a member of All Saints for the last four years, Deacon Achilleas noted that it was "a great blessing to hear the people proclaim" his worthiness.

Deacon Achilleas is a distance education student in the diaconal studies programme at St Arseny Institute in Winnipeg and, according to the congratulatory email he received from his professors at the institute, has set a new standard in his studies. Beginning in January of 2008, he has completed, on average, one and a half courses per month. Only four courses remain before his studies are complete. Deacon Achilleas said that he "didn't know it was an unorthodox approach" when he first set his goals, but says it was "absolutely worth it" and that he has learned, not only what the courses have taught him, but a lot about himself.

The ordination was attended by a number of clergy: Archbishop Seraphim, of course, and the priest and deacon of All Saints of Alaska, Fr John Hainsworth and Deacon Kevin Miller. In addition, Fr Lawrence Farley, Dean of British Columbia and pastor of St Herman of Alaska's parish in Langely BC was present, as was Deacon Kurt Jordan, of the same parish. Fr Kosta Kalsidis

of the Greek Church of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, and a close friend of Deacon Achilleas was also witness to the ordination. Fr Charles Baxter, of the Ukrainian Church of St George, and Hieromonk Peter (Kontratiev) were also on hand.

At All Saints of Alaska, Fr Deacon Achilleas will share diaconal duties with Fr Deacon Kevin Miller, who is the only parish-paid deacon in the Archdiocese of Canada, and possibly in the entire OCA.

The ordination had been changed from March to January, to accommodate His Eminence's crowded schedule, which left the newly ordained deacon feeling, "totally unprepared. I was very nervous, and there was a lot of fear at what I have given up and done to prepare for this. I wanted to see the fruits of my labour come forth."

His wife, Matushka Brianne Kasapi, totally supports his ordination, he said. She is "as relieved as I am; because Brianne bore witness to the best and the worst of me during the learning; she suffered with me during the low times. The fact that this has happened, she feels quite a bit of relief; she's happy for me."

Said Fr John Hainsworth, Deacon Achilleas' priest and friend, "Deacon Achilleas will make a vibrant, joyful addition to the Archdiocese. His talents and gifts are evident to everyone who knows him, and his willingness to serve is exemplary." Axios!

— *Bev Cooke, All Saints of Alaska Church, Victoria BC*



In the ordination photograph, bottom row, left to right: Matushka Brianne Kasapi, Deacon Achilleas Kasapi, Hieromonk Peter (Kontratiev), Deacon Kevin Miller. Second row, left to right: Deacon Kurt Jordan, Fr Lawrence Farley, Father Charles Baxter, Fr John Hainsworth. Back row: His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim and Fr Kosta Kalsidis.