The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

With regard to the training of future clergymen of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, it is our hope that as many of our future pastors as possible will be able to attend Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York and complete the course of studies there.

However, given that this ideal is not possible in all circumstances, for those who cannot attend Holy Trinity Seminary it is our recommendation that English-speaking members of our flock attend the Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America. The program of studies of the Pastoral School was approved by the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia at its September 2008 meeting.

We hereby confer our First Hierarchal blessing on the faculty and students of the Diocesan Pastoral School and entreat the Lord that through their efforts He will show forth "... pastors according to [His] heart, which shall feed [His people] with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15).

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

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