**Hong Kong marks 300th Anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Mission in China**

This year commemorates 300 years since the founding of the first Ecclesiastical Mission. Fr. Maxim Leontiev, the first Orthodox priest that was brought along with the Albazinians to serve in the prestigious imperial banner in Beijing, reposed in 1712 that year. The Albazinian flock was left without a pastor and this was petitioned to the *Lifan Yuan* which was the Qing’s government office of minority affairs. This culminated in the royal decree by Emperor Kangxi at the request of Emperor Peter the Great to open Russia’s first official Mission in Beijing to serve the spiritual needs of the Orthodox Faithful.

A series of celebratory events in December 2012 marking this special occasion in Hong Kong is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies (<http://www.iscs.org.hk/home_eng.htm>), Chinese University of Hong Kong (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/>) and The Orthodox Brotherhood of Saints Apostles Peter and Paul (<http://www.orthodoxy.hk/>).

The venue of events opened to the public includes:

**6 Dec, 9 AM:** Round Table discussion on various topics related to the theme Orthodoxy in China at Tao Fung Shan

Conference Hall, No. 33 Tao Fung Shan Road, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

**7 Dec, 8 AM:** Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul Church

#701, 7/F, Arion Commercial Centre, 2-12 Queen's Rd West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

**7 Dec, 1:30 PM:** Thanksgiving prayer service at CUHK

Ground Floor, Chapel and President Chi-tung Yung Memorial Building, Divinity School of Chung Chi College,

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

**7 Dec, 2:30 PM:** Orthodox Book Fair at CUHK

Ground Floor of College Chapel, Chung Chi College Chaplaincy, Chung Chi College,

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

Special honored guests include Bishop Ephraim of Bikin, Provost of Khabarovsk Theological Seminary, and Mitred Archpriest Michael Li, accompanied by his Matushka and Fr Vladimir Boikov. Being one of the last surviving original elderly clergy and one of the only living links to the actual Mission, Fr Michael immigrated in 1999 to serve the Chinese Orthodox Faithful overseas in Australia. Your generous donation will make it possible for him to participate in this historic celebration, as he steps back on Chinese soil where he himself is a living testament to the spiritual fruit of the Mission in China.

For more details regarding the venue or to make a contribution to enable the participation of our honored guests, please contact Fr Dionisy Pozdnyaev, rector of the Orthodox Brotherhood of Saints Apostles Peter and Paul (Moscow Patriarchate) at:

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