EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

GENERAL STATEMENT¹

History.—The Eastern Orthodox Catholic Churches, known historically as the "Eastern Church," and in modern times as the "Greek Orthodox Church," the "Eastern Catholic Church," the "Holy Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Church," and popularly as the "Greek Church," are the modern representatives of the Catholic Church of the Byzantine Empire. As the distinction between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires developed, there also grew up differences between the ritual and doctrinal positions held in the church in its original castern homelands and those which developed in the daughter church in the Latin West and centered in the Roman Papacy. Toward the ninth century these became still more evident and culminated, in 1054, in complete separation between the Patriarch or Bishop of Rome and the four Eastern Patriarchs. The Eastern Church at that time comprised four ecclesiastical units, the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria. These were and are coordinate in authority, though honorary precedence was and is accorded to the Patriarch of Constantinople as holder of the ecclesiastical throne of the imperial city of the Eastern Empire, just as the Pope of Rome had been similarly honored as holder of the ecclesiastical throne of the imperial city of the earlier, world-wide, Roman Empire.

With the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, and the assumption by the Turkish Government of the right of approval in the election of the Patriarchs, there developed a diversity of ecclesiastical organization. The Patriarchs of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria, while still according a certain precedence of honor to the Patriarch of Constantinople, preserved their ecclesiastical independence. With the development of the Russian Empire, the Russian Church, hitherto nominally subordinate to the Constantinople Patriarchate, organized its own ecclesiastical government, first, about the year 1589, in the form of a Russian Patriarchate, and later, in 1721, under the supreme authority of a Holy Governing Synod, with headquarters at St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). Similarly, after Greece had become independent, the Church of Greece established, in 1833, the Holy Synod of Greece at Athens. Various other metropolitan sees have also claimed and acquired independence, including those of Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Albania, and Cyprus. Since the World War, independent national Orthodox Churches have been proclaimed in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, and Czechoslovakia; but the permanent status of these is not yet definitely agreed upon.

These different organizations, although independent of each other ecclesiastically, agree in doctrine, and, essentially, in form of worship, and together constitute what is called the "Eastern Orthodox Catholic Churches."

Of these churches, seven have been represented in the United States by regular church organizations. These are the Russian Orthodox, the Greek Orthodox (Hellenic), the Serbian Orthodox, the Syrian Orthodox, the Albanian Orthodox, the Bulgarian Orthodox, and the Roumanian Orthodox. Only one of these, the Russian Orthodox Church, had a general ecclesiastical organization previous to

¹ This statement was furnished by Rev. Boris R. Burden, editor, The Orthodox Catholic Review.

the World War. To that Russian Mission all the Orthodox Churches in America were nominally subject, although they had their own administrators under the Russian archbishop.

Following the World War and the Russian Revolution the various racial and linguistic groups broke away from the Russian jurisdiction in America and set up separate national missions in this country corresponding to the national churches in their ancestral homelands. Rival groups and leaders appeared corresponding to the political factions and divisions in the chaotic European situation.

The Russians have four different factions each claiming that its prelate is the true Russian Archbishop of America. The Greeks have two and the Syrians three divisions in similar situations. The Serbians have a bishop governing part of their parishes in this country. In every group there are numerous independent parishes and clergy which refuse to recognize any of the rival bishops. Each of the national churches or missions has reported separately, but in each group there are many local churches not included, owing to the chaotic conditions prevailing at the present time.

In an effort to unite all the Orthodox Catholic people in America and develop a single American organization of the church in this country, as well as to provide for the next American generation of Orthodox people, the five Russian bishops in America, headed by the Metropolitan Platon, ordered the establishment of an independent American Orthodox Catholic Church under the name of "The Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church in North America." This body has been chartered by both civil and eccleciastical authorities in America (as a religious corporation under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, December 1, 1927) and is proceeding gradually to unite under its North American Holy Synod the members and clergy of various racial and national origins who desire to enter an independent American Orthodox Catholic Church. Its North American Holy Synod has published in English and foreign languages its charter, constitution, and other important documents and also publishes in English a bimonthly organ, The Orthodox Catholic Review, from its temporary headquarters in Brooklyn.

Doctrine.—The doctrine of the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Churches is founded on the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Traditions, and the dogmatic decisions of the seven Ecumenical Councils. The Holy Scriptures are interpreted strictly in accordance with the teachings of the seven Ecumenical Councils and the Holy Fathers. The Niceo-Constantinopolitan Creed is held only in its original authoritative form without the Roman-Latin addition of the "Filioque" phrase. Recognizing Christ as the only head of the earthly as well as the heavenly church, they do not accept the dogma of the Pope as the special representative or Vicar of Christ on earth, and the infallible head of His earthly church. According to their teaching, infallibility belongs to the whole assembly of true believers, to the "Ecclesia," or Church, which is represented by its council legally called together and whose decisions are confirmed by the consensus of the church.

They believe in the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Father alone; honor Mary as the Mother of God, and honor the nine orders of angels and the saints; do not define as dogma the doctrine of the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary, but hold the true Catholic doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ. They reject the doctrine of the surplus merits of the saints and the doctrine of indulgences. They reverence relics of the saints, pictures of holy subjects, and the cross, but forbid the use of carved images. They accept seven sacraments, baptism, anointing (confirmation or chrismation), communion, penance, holy orders, marriage, and holy unction. Baptism of either infants or adults by three-fold immersion is recognized as the only proper form, although other forms are accepted of necessity or in the case of converts who have previously been

baptized. The sacrament of anointing with "chrism," or holy oil, is administered immediately after that of baptism and the chrismated infant or adult is thereafter a full communicant in the Eucharist.

The doctrine of transubstantiation is taught. In the Eucharist, leavened bread is used, being consecrated and soaked in the consecrated chalice and then received by all members of the Eastern Orthodox Churches after confession and absolution. Children under 7 years of age, however, receive the sacrament without confession. Holy unction is administered to the sick, and not alone to those in danger of death. The Church rejects the doctrine of purgatory, but believes in the beneficial effect of prayer for the dead by the living and for the living by the dead. It rejects the doctrine of predestination and considers that for justification both faith and works are necessary.

In the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church, membership has two distinct but frequently confused meanings. All persons who have been baptized in the church and received the sacrament of chrismation (confirmation) which immediately follows baptism, are communicant members of the church, participating in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Parish membership, however, is counted more frequently by families than by communicants, because the head of each family is the voting member of the parish congregation. This fact gives rise to confusion and uncertainty of statistics of all Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Organization.—There are three orders of the ministry—deacons, priests, and bishops. The deacons assist in the work of the parish and in the service of the sacraments. Priests and deacons are of two orders, secular and monastic. Marriage is allowed to candidates for the diaconate and the priesthood, but is forbidden after ordination. The episcopate is, as a rule, confined to members of the monastic order. A married priest, should his wife die, may enter a monastery and take the monastic vows, and is eligible to the episcopate. The parishes are, as a rule, in the care of the secular priests.

Monks and nuns are gathered in monastic establishments or are scattered out in missionary work. In some monastic colonies the members live in communities, while in others they lead a secluded, hermitical life, each in his own cell. There is but one order, and the vows for all are the same, obedience, chastity, prayer, fasting, and poverty.

The organization for the general government of the different Eastern Orthodox Churches varies in different countries. In general, there is a council at the head of which, as president, is a bishop elected by the ecclesiastical representatives of the people. Historically, and at present in some cases, this presiding bishop is called the Patriarch, and has special colleagues and officers for the purpose of governing his flock. The largest or most important of the bishoprics connected with the patriarchate, or synod, are called "metropolitan sees," though the title now carries with it no special ecclesiastical authority. In early times, both the clergy and the laity of the local churches had a voice in the election of bishops, priests, and deacons, but of late that right has been much restricted, and at present the priests and deacons are usually appointed by the bishops, and the bishops are elected by the clergy.

The service of the Eastern Orthodox Churches is solemn and elaborate. It is essentially that of the earlier centuries of Christianity, and is most fully and completely observed in the monasteries. There are no sculptured images and no instrumental music, although there are pictorial representations of Christ, the apostles and saints, and scenes in Bible history. The most important service is the divine liturgy, the chief part of which is the celebration of the Eucharist. There are three liturgies, those of St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great, and St. Gregory, the last called the "Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts," for which the holy gifts are prepared at a preceding service. There are no so-called "silent

liturgies" or "private masses," and two liturgies are not allowed to be performed in the same church simultaneously, nor can a liturgy be performed by the same priest, or on the same altar, twice a day. A "corporal," otherwise known as an "antimins," a cloth with a particle of the holy remains of some saint sewed into it, and especially blessed by a bishop for every church, is necessary to the performance of the liturgy. Moreover, a priest may perform it only when he is fasting. Besides the liturgy, the church has vespers, vigils, matins, hours, and special prayers for various occasions and needs. The several services named consist of readings from the Old and New Testaments, supplicatory prayers, thanksgiving, glorifying hymns, etc.

Statistics.—The churches grouped under Eastern Orthodox Churches in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. It will be noted that three churches presented in 1916 and 1926—Albanian, Bulgarian, and Roumanian—were not reported in 1906.

Certain small groups or movements which have sprung from the Old Catholics in America must not be confused with the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Some of these Old Catholics use the word "Orthodox" in their names (e. g., African Orthodox Church), but none of them has any relation with Eastern Orthodox Catholic Churches either in orders or sacraments.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

and more than the second of th		na ned ra ned	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY	
DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number churches	Number of mem- bers	Churches reporting.	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Num- ber of schol- ars
1926 Total for the group	446	259,394	397	\$11,789,108	423	\$2,044,415	198	14,195
Albanian Orthodox Church Bulgarian Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Church (Hellenie) Roumanian Orthodox Church Russian Orthodox Church Serbian Orthodox Church Syrian Orthodox Church 1916	9 4 153 34 199 17 30	1, 993 937 119, 495 18, 853 95, 134 13, 775 9, 207	5 3 131 30 187 16 25	66,000 32,000 5,011,718 621,500 4,883,515 272,000 902,375	9 3 145 32 195 15 24	14, 850 5, 230 958, 809 92, 124 838, 453 67, 978 66, 971	1 73 18 90 7 9	55 5,796 1,370 5,770 497 707
Total for the group	301	249,840	263	3,576,884	283	856,968	151	9, 118
Albanian Orthodox Church Bulgarian Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Church (Hellenie) Roumanian Orthodox Church Russian Orthodox Church Serbian Orthodox Church Syrian Orthodox Church	2 4 87 2 169 12 25	410 1,992 119,871 1,994 99,681 14,301 11,591	4 59 1 164 10 25	18,500 1,115,464 18,000 2,137,713 106,700 180,507	2 4 74 2 165 12 24	2, 482 5, 051 230, 288 11, 520 549, 776 29, 353 28, 498	17 2 116 8 8	1, 088 123 6, 739 653 515
1906 Total for the group	411	129,606	75	964,791	777	oly odf	of Be	deeds TP 509
		-	10	964,791		-4-1-2-4,46	- 6	_
Greek Orthodox Church	334 59 10 8	90, 751 19, 111 15, 742 4, 002	19 46 8 2	385, 800 484, 371 62, 460 32, 160	7-11 7-11	io ugai y Boyash uma lad	1 1	371 75 13 50

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATISTICS

The data given for 1926 represent 17 active Serbian Orthodox churches, all reported as being in urban territory. The total membership was 13,775, comprising 7,289 males, 6,421 females, and 65 for whom the sex was not reported. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 16 churches and the classification by age was reported by 11 churches, including 9 which reported members under 13 years of age.

The membership of the Serbian Orthodox Church is of two types, communicant members, or all persons, including infants, baptized and confirmed in the church, and parish members, or the families of the congregation, the head of the family being the voting member.

Comparative data, 1906-1926.—Table 1 presents. in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this church for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906. It is probable that the decrease in membership is accounted for in part by differences in the method of reporting, as well as by a decrease in immigration.

TABLE 1.—Comparative Summary, 1906 to 1926: Serbian Orthodox Church

ITEM .	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations) Increase over preceding census:	17	12	10
Number Per cent 1	5	2	
Members Increase 3 over preceding census:	13,775	14,301	15,742
NumberPer cent	-5 26 -3. 7		
Average membership per church	810	1, 192	1, 574
Church edifices: Number	17	10	8
Value—Churches reporting.	16	10	8
Amount reported	\$272,000	\$106, 700	\$62, 460
Average per church	\$17,000	\$10, 670	\$7,808
Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported	\$72, 000°	\$21, 112	\$19,000
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting	10	5	20.00
Amount reported Debt—Churches reporting	\$50, 000	\$ 15, 300	\$2, 100
Amount reported	\$10, 200		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting	15	#00 252	
Amount reported	\$67, 978 \$63, 885		
Benevolences, missions, etc.	\$4, 093		
Average expenditure per church	\$4, 532		
Sunday schools:	_		
Churches reporting	10	. 8	1
Officers and teachersScholars	497	11 653	13

Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Serbian Orthodox Church by States. Table 2 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches and the membership classified by sex. Table 3 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 5 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 4 and 5 is limited to the State of Ohio, the only one in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 2.

Table 2.—Number and Membership of Churches, and Membership by Sex, by States, 1926: Serbian Orthodox Church

	Mumban	Number	MEMBERSHIP BY SEX						
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 fe- males ¹			
United States	17	13,775	7, 289	6, 421	65	113, 5			
Middle Atlantic: New York Pennsylvania East North Central:	1 2	421 1, 100	234 600	187 500		125. 1 120. 0			
OhioIndiana	4 2	4, 241 135	2, 439 135	1,802	uster2.be	135. 3			
Illinois Michigan Wisconsin	2	148 367 1, 200	148 150 700	217 500		69, 1 140, 0			
West North Central: Minnesota	1	65			65	120.0			
Nebraska Kansas	1	150 558	75 248	75	2	80.0			
Pacific: California	1	5, 390	2, 560	2, 830		.90. 5			

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

Table 3.—Number and Membership of Churches, 1906 to 1926, and Membership by Age, 1926, by States: Serbian Orthodox Church

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

n boton offw = o	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBI	ER OF ME	MBERS	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926				
bus granes sal	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	0461	Age not re- ported	Per cent under 13 1	
United States	17	12	10	13, 775	14, 301	15,742	3, 328	9, 999	448	25, 0	
PennsylvaniaOhio	2 4	1 4	4	1, 100 4, 241	3, 688	6, 652 1, 190	100 1,745	900 2,496	100	10.0	
Other States	11	8	5	8, 434	10, 613	7,900	1, 483	6,603	348	18.3	

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 4.—Value of Church Property, and Church Debt, by States, 1926: Serbian Orthodox Church

Separate presentation is limited to States having	3 or more churches reporting value of edifices
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	ber of	church es	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
STATE	Total number	Number of church edifices	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	17	17	16	\$272,000	5	\$72,000	10	\$50,000	5	\$10, 200
Ohio	4	3	3	55, 000	2	28, 000		(1)		(1)
Other States *	13	14	13	217, 000	3	44,000	10	50, 000	5	10, 200

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

!	er of	E	XPENDITURI	es During	YEAR	SUI	NDAY SCE	10013
STATE	Total number churches	Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improve- ments	For benevo- lences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teach- ers	Schol- ars
United States	17	15	\$67,978	\$63,885	\$4,093	7	10	497
Ohio	4	3	24, 543	23, 450	1, 093	2	2	152
Other States	13	12	43, 435	40, 435	3,000	5	8	345

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION 1

The history of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States is closely linked with that of the Russian Church. This is true mainly for two reasons. The Serbian immigrants were not sufficiently concentrated in any one place to build distinctly Serbian parishes until quite recently; and there was no need for such parishes, inasmuch as the Serbians are linguistically Slavic and readily understand services conducted in the Russian language. Furthermore, from a very early date, there was at all times a Serbian priest or archimandrite high in the councils of the Russian diocesan administration in America, who acted as guide and supervisor for his people. The Serbians, therefore, remained directly under the Russian bishops in America until after the changed conditions resulting from the World War.

About five years ago, the Serbian Orthodox churches in this country and Canada were organized into a diocese, and now have a national church administration, with the same ritual and dogmas as the Russian and other Eastern Orthodox churches. Right Rev. Archimandrite Mardary Uskokovich, who was formerly in charge under the Russian Archdiocese, was consecrated on April 25, 1926, in Belgrade, by the Patriarch of Serbia, and he is now in residence in this country.

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 2 churches in Ohio.

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Right Rev. Bishop Mardary, and approved by him in its present form.