

PRIESTS ALEXIS AND RAFAEL OF SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN BRAZIL

PARISH OF DORMITION OF HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

RECIFE, PE, BRAZIL



WHO WE ARE?

- I´m Archipriest Alexis Peña-Alfaro 71 Years old. I born in El Salvador Central America, but i live in Brazil since 1975. I graduate in Psychology, professor retired but I continue working at clinica. Married with Maria and we have to sons: Natalia and Antonio. Im writter with nine book published and I was a teacher of Theology
- Archriest Rafael has 73 Years old. Born in Brazil. Married with Lucia and they have a son Baisilo. Fr. Raphael is graduated in Philosophy. He is an iconografer

MY FAMILY: MARIA, NATALIA AND ANTONIO



MY HOLY NAME IS IN HONOR OF METROPOLITAN ALEXIS OF MOSCOW



RELIGIOUS SETTING IN BRAZIL

- Since 1500, Brazil became a Roman Catholic country under the Portuguese crown after its discovery and colonization. Catholicism became the official religion of the Empire of Brazil.
- With the establishment of the Republic in 1889, the Brazilian State became a secular country, and with this, freedom of religious worship began in Brazil in 1891.
- With this, at the end of the 19th century, Protestant missionaries began to arrive. the monopoly of the Catholic Church ended with the installation of the secular State

THE FIRST ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN BRAZIL

- With the arrival of communities of Orthodox immigrants at the end of the 19th century, religious services began. These communities were Arab [Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian], Russian, Greek, Ukrainian.
- The first Orthodox liturgy in Brazil was celebrated in Sao Paulo in 1897 by the Antiochian Church, which built the first Orthodox parish in 1904.
- The first Russian Orthodox Parish was built in Campina of Missions in 1912 of Parish of Holy Apostle John at Rio Grando do Sul [at south of Brazil]

BRAZIL AND SOUTH AMERICA



BRASIL, STATE OF PERNAMBUCO, RECIFE



BRAZIL IS A COUNTRY WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE 240 MILLIONS WHO BELIEVE IN GOD (90%)

- At the beginning of the 20th century, Brazil was the largest Catholic country in the world, with nearly 95% of the faithful.
- Now in 2022 the Brazilian population is made up of 50% Catholics and 32% Protestants, 10% of no religion; 3% of reincarnationist spiritists; 2% African cults and 0.12% Orthodox.

BOA VIAGEM BEACH



RECIFE KNOWN AS THE BRAZILIAN VENICE



ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN BRAZIL

The first Orthodox communities in Brazil were made up of immigrants who celebrated in their native languages and were linguistically and culturally focused on immigrants.

For this reason, Brazilians did not have access to services and it was difficult to belong to an Orthodox church that did not proselytize.

For a long time the Brazilian people could not belong to the Orthodox Church because of the linguistic and cultural factor.

But now since several decades little by little the orthodox churches opened the door for Brazilian people



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN BRAZIL

- As we know, since the beginning of the 20th century we have had the first Russian parishes in Brazil, only in the last three decades have Brazilians attended services and become members and we have Brazilian priests among their clergy.
- The Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow has parishes in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Brasília, Manaus and Recife.

WE HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN CHURCH



VISIT OF METROPOLITAN IGNATIOS TO OUR PARISH IN RECIFE 2019



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF OUR CHURCH IN BRAZIL 1986

- We formed the first Orthodox mission in Brazil that had no connection with the canonical churches established since the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century.
- This group began this spiritual search in 1982 through the intellectual path dedicated to the study of Eastern spiritual esoteric doctrines: Taoism, Zen Buddhism, Metaphysics, Cosmology, Mythology, Traditional Astrology; we read authors such as Rene Guenon and others.
- We sought the ancient spiritual traditions because the modern world did not offer answers.

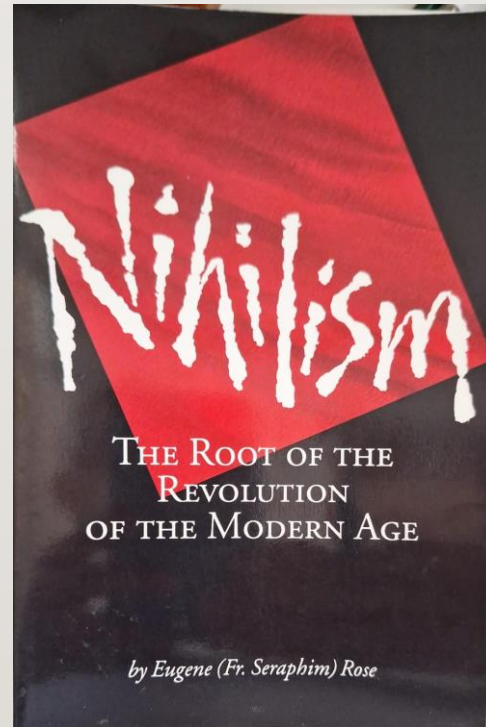
SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

- A good example of this is Father Seraphim Ross, an American monk converted to Orthodoxy and a very popular writer in Russia. He studies Eastern doctrines in search of Truth.
- The historic counterculture movement of the sixties led thousands of young people to esotericism and Eastern religions due to several factors:
- Disenchantment with modernity and postmodernity
- Contemporary nihilism and materialism already announced in the 19th century by Nietzsche
- the modern Western religious desacralization the crisis of the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant churches with their fragmentation the search for the Tradition of the primitive Church lost in the West

FATHER SERAPHIM ROSS, PLATINA CALIFORNIA



FATHER SERAPHIM ROSS



ENCOUNTER WITH ORTHODOXY

- Providentially, while visiting Brazil, Rene Guenon's translator for Portugal, journalist Antonio Carlos Carvalho, gave a lecture in Rio de Janeiro in 1985 on the symbolism of Fernando Pessoa.
- By chance, this journalist was also an Orthodox priest.
- It was he who introduced us to the Orthodox Church and its history, which we were unfamiliar with.
- This was the Christian Tradition we were seeking.

VISIT TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PORTUGAL

JUNE 1986

- We met the Orthodox Metropolitan of Lisbon at the Monastery of Mafra and it was he who welcomed us into the Church and decided to undertake an Orthodox mission in Brazil. This Church in Portugal was not yet canonical, it was linked to the Old Calendarist Greek
- In 1990, the Orthodox Church of Portugal was canonically received by the Orthodox Church of Poland. In 1992, the first Brazilian Bishop was consecrated for our mission in Brazil. Church. In August 1986 we began our work in Brazil in Recife and Rio de Janeiro.
- Here begins the story of a new Orthodox church in Brazil, that of Poland. However, in 2002, a group of priests and faithful from Recife decided to seek out the Serbian Church and requested entry, which was accepted, and yet another canonical church operates in Brazil.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS WHY PEOPLE SEEK THE ORTHODOX CHURCH TODAY?

- People, especially young people, are seeking spiritual stability.
- The crises and the doctrinal and theological fragility of Catholics and Protestants are driving many people away from these churches.
- There is a serious lack of liturgy.
- There is a lack of spirituality.
- The financial frauds of the Protestant prosperity theology.
- The scandals of the Catholic Church

WHY THE ORTHODOX CHURCH ATTRACTS TODAY

- The Tradition of the Church
- The orthodox liturgy
- The beauty of the church
- Spiritual discipline
- The pursuit of holiness
- The monastical life

WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THE ORTHODOXY?

- Especially young people
- Intellectuals who seek answers
- The most religious people
- The vast majority today come to church via the internet
- Our Church in Brazil is made up of converts;
- The ethnic orthodox are few in ours parishes

DORMITION PARISH

