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Latest: Bishop Gerasim Enthroned as Bishop of Dallas and the South in Front of 750 Worshippers

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Bishop Gerasim was enthroned as Bishop of Dallas and the South on Saturday, 14 November 2026, at St Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral in Dallas, Texas, in front of more than 750 clergy and faithful"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Bishop Gerasim was enthroned as Bishop of Dallas and the South on Saturday, 14 November 2026, at St Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral in Dallas, Texas, in front of more than 750 clergy and faithful. Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, presided over the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the enthronement, joined by Archbishop Michael and Bishops Nikodhim, Benedict, Vasily and Andrei. The Diocese of the South published its report on the enthronement the following day, 15 November.

Picture the scene at 9:30 on a Saturday morning: gold vestments catching the candlelight, the choir's voices rising under the dome, and a cathedral so full that worshippers spilled into every corner. For the people of the Diocese of the South, this was not a formality. It was the end of months of waiting - and the beginning of a new chapter under a bishop they had chosen themselves.

Bishop Gerasim Enthroned In Dallas: Unanimous Choice Of His Diocese

The road to Dallas began in Jacksonville, Florida, on 24 July 2026. There, at a Special Nominating Assembly, clergy and lay delegates from across the diocese unanimously nominated Bishop Gerasim - then known as Bishop Eliel - to lead them. A unanimous vote in any church body is rare. In a diocese spread across the whole southern United States, it was a striking sign of trust.

The Holy Synod of Bishops made that choice canonical on Monday, 2 November 2026, meeting at St Vladimir's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. The Synod elected him Bishop of Dallas and the South, and the date of his enthronement was set for 14 November. Twelve days later, the cathedral in Dallas was full.

Gerasim had already been carrying the diocese for months. He served as Locum Tenens - caretaker bishop - from July 2026, after the retirement of Archbishop Alexander. That meant he knew the parishes, the priests and the problems before the enthronement ever happened. He was not arriving as a stranger. He was stepping into a job he had already begun, in the same spirit of quiet welcome that has marked Orthodox growth elsewhere, as when Nine Adults Welcomed Into Orthodox Church in Perth as Bishop Elpidios Baptises Eight.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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