

## **Remarks of Nicole Dillingham, President, Board of Directors of Otsego 2000**

### **Holy Trinity Monastery**

#### **Presentation of Certificate of Listing on the National Register of Historic Places**

It is a pleasure to be present on this momentous occasion. First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Otsego 2000, I congratulate Holy Trinity Monastery on having achieved the honor of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is indeed a very important achievement for the Monastery and the entire community.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of those in this room and beyond who worked so hard to see that this goal was realized. I commend in particular the Preservation League of New York State including Tania Werbizky and Daniel McKay, the Mohawk Valley Corridor Commission and specifically our exceptionally talented allies in this endeavor, Fred Miller and Rachel Bliven, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Preservation as well as the National Park Service. It is clear that this effort required a strong partnership between each of these groups and as well as others in the community who recognized the significance of this place in history and the life of the community. I include here in particular the dear friend of the Monastery, Sue Brander, and two former Executive Directors of Otsego 2000, Robin Krawitz and Martha Frey, who each made enormous contributions to this effort.

There are times when historic preservation concerns the identification, rehabilitation, and protection of a structure long forgotten or neglected through time. I am pleased to say that the Monastery's nomination is particularly significant because it is not such a place. The Monastery is and always has been very much alive and constitutes an ongoing expression of the adaptation and development of Russian culture abroad. As such, it is a place of both historic and ongoing beauty, education and work. The work and study that has taken place here and the work and study that is yet to come are both equally significant. Put another way, it represents both our past and our future. Thus, the addition of the Monastery to the National Register of Historic Places enhances its significance for the past, present, and future of this community.

In summary it is a very happy day for the Monastery, those who know it and love it in the community and the world far beyond this hamlet, as well as for all those who will have the privilege of sharing in its history and life as the future unfolds. I thank you again for having allowed Otsego 2000 to play a small role in these events.