# Office of Communications

# Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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The members of the Diocesan Council [DC] gathered for a meeting with His Grace, Bishop Michael, at the Diocesan Center in Bronxville NY on Monday, 28 February 2011. DC members present were:

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar (Chancellor)

Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Dean, New Jersey Deanery)

Archpriest Alexey Karlgut (Dean, New York State Deanery)

Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk (Dean, New York City Deanery)

Archpriest Daniel Degyansky (NYC Deanery, clergy)

George Elia (NYC Deanery, laity)

Priest Stephen Evanina (NJ Deanery, clergy)

Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, Treasurer (NJ Deanery, laity)

Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky, Secretary (NYS Deanery, clergy)

Scott Anderson (NYS Deanery, laity)

Also attending the meeting were the clergy and laity diocesan representatives to the Metropolitan Council: Archpriest John Shimchick and Paul Witek. Thomas Gervais (Saint John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY) was in attendance as a guest.

A service of intercession and thanksgiving (*molieben*) for the good-estate of the diocese and grace-filled assembly of the DC was celebrated by Bishop Michael prior to the meeting commencing at 11:44 a.m.

His Grace welcomed the DC members and others attending the meeting. Following a roll-call of attendees, Thomas Gervais (CLU) offered a comprehensive analysis and answered questions concerning diocesan insurance needs and an evaluation of proposals from Guide One Insurance Company and Church Mutual Insurance Company. A real property valuation analysis was conducted, assets (personal/diocesan property) identified for valuation, and the identification of parameters for requesting comparative policy proposals (bids) was initiated. The DC thanked Mr. Gervais for his efforts and consultation. He will continue as an advisor to the DC in working with the treasurer to obtain comparative policy proposals for review in determining the best policy and most cost-effective way of meeting diocesan insurance requirements.

Matushka Mary Buletza Breton (diocesan treasurer) presented financial reports:

- Income Statement (January-February 26, 2011)
- Inflows/Disbursements
- Partial Balance Sheet
- Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Fund

## Old business discussed by the DC included:

- Diocesan assessments and the status of delinquent parishes
- Holy Cross Monastery
- Preparations to accomplish a financial audit per the decision of the recent Diocesan Assembly
- Update on the status and progress of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program
- Opening Interest-bearing Accounts
- By-laws Committee Report
- Clergy Salary Scale Committee Report
- "Jacob's Well" next issue should be published at end of March 2011
- Altar Servers Retreat at St. Basil Academy had nearly 70 participants

### New business discussed included:

- Report on diocesan website and status of parish websites diocese-wide
- Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home
- Saint Andrew's Camp and Religious Center
- Metropolitan Council Report
- Lenten Youth Retreat: 1-2 April at Wayne NJ
- Youth Day: 18 August at Trenton NJ
- Diocesan Assembly: 19 July (tentative)

The next meeting of the DC will be at the Diocesan Center on Monday, 16 May 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

With the singing of "It is truly meet ..." the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Following the DC meeting, several seminarians and their families -- most of them from the diocese -- participated in a "welcome dinner" at the Diocesan Center. With Bishop Michael as their host, they had an opportunity to learn more about the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and hear reflections on the priesthood (and on the role and challenges of being the wife or child of a priest), parish life, and related subjects from the priests and laity of the DC. Matushka Shirley Lickwar, wife of the Chancellor, also shared her insights into parish life and ministry from the perspective of a priest's wife and the mother of PKs [Priest's Kids]. Following nearly 3 hours of sharing, fellowship and a delightful buffet, the seminarians expressed their sincere thanks to Bishop Michael for hosting the gathering; and, of course, to Matushka Shirley for her labor of love in preparing the meal. Photos of the DC meeting and seminarian dinner are posted on the diocesan website: <a href="http://nynjoca.org/">http://nynjoca.org/</a>