## **Office of Communications**

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

## **RELEASE NUMBER 2011.15.1**

The diocese will experience another "first" this year as seven regional Parish Council Conferences will be conducted from April 30<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>. With the inspiration and blessing of His Grace, Bishop Michael, the conferences will provide an opportunity for those serving on parish councils to consider the nature and content of their unique vocation in leadership and ministry within their local parish community. It is hoped that the gathering of persons from more than one parish will also build a spirit of common effort and mutual support as both the joys



and struggles of parish life (spiritual and material) are shared among the participants. Father Alexander Atty (Dean of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan PA) has graciously agreed to lead the conferences as leader/facilitator. His particular interest and expertise in the focus of the conferences -- *"Called to Serve"* -- will bring a dynamic dimension to the events.

## Parish Council Conferences

(All dates on Saturday)

| April 30, 2011 ~ Saint Basil Orthodox Church ~ Watervliet NY        |
|---|
| May 7, 2011 ~ Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church ~ Rochester NY |
| May 14, 2011 ~ Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church ~ Endicott NY  |
| June 4, 2011 ~ Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church ~ Paramus NJ      |
| June 11, 2011 ~ Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church ~ Brooklyn NY  |
| June 18, 2011 ~ to be determined ~ New York City Deanery            |
| June 25, 2011 ~ Saint Vladimir Orthodox Church ~ Trenton NJ         |

In a letter to parish rectors and parish council members dated March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Diocesan Chancellor (Father Joseph Lickwar) wrote:

With the consecration of His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, as hierarch of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, new life has filled our parishes, deaneries and the diocese. In less than a year, His Grace has generated a variety of programs and projects which are beginning to meet the needs of parishes and to grow the Church.

| V. Rev. Ken James Stavrevsky |   |                        |   | 04/01/2011   | 1:4 | 0 PM   | Page <b>1</b> of <b>2</b> |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| Director of Communications   | ~ | frski@rochester.rr.com | ~ | 585-458-5627 | ~   | cell 5 | 85-770-3496               |



His Grace is calling for a first in the history of our diocese: Parish Council Conferences. These will be an opportunity for our council persons to meet one another, and share concerns, strengths, and ideas. In order to accomplish this in a very practical way and to allow adequate time for all attendees to share, schedules have been established in the three deaneries.

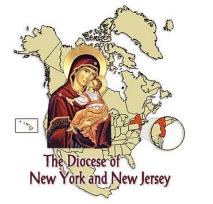
The schedule for the day will be the morning session of discussions, sharing concerns, strengths and ideas. In the afternoon, the Very Reverend Alexander Atty ... an experienced pastor ... has been invited by His Grace to speak and lead the discussion following lunch.

The conferences will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 3:00 p.m.

Please add this to your Parish Council agenda and plan ... to allow maximum attendance of your council members.

In preparation for the conferences, parish rectors have received survey/questionnaires that are to be returned to the Office of the Diocesan Chancellor as soon as possible, and before the conferences commence.

Additional information regarding the conferences will be sent to all parish rectors as it becomes available and should be shared with the local parish council members.





Father Alexander Atty

V. Rev. Ken James Stavrevsky Director of Communications

frski@rochester.rr.com ~ 585-458-5627 ~

04/01/2011 1:40 PM Page 2 of 2 458-5627 ~ cell 585-770-3496