

Report of the Chancellor of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
December 11, 2012

Your Grace and Assembly Delegates,

The prophetic words of the Mother God “For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” are true every day, and especially dear to us. The visitation of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God and several visitations of the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Mother of God to our diocese have been an inspiration to the faithful. Her presence, protection, intercession and holy myrrh abide with us.

The archpastoral ministry of His Grace, which began with great energy over two-years ago, continues to expand and bear fruit. His labor focuses on sacramental life, preparation of deacons, care of the youth and college students, improved diocesan administration, funding of diocesan institutions, improvement in communications, educational endeavors, training of church singers and directors, and pastoral care and of the clergy and the faithful. The clergy and faithful have responded by offering themselves as co-laborers.

We need to be especially grateful for the formulation of Diocesan By-Laws that will guide our diocesan life for the years to come. The document remains faithful to the Statute of Orthodox Church in America and represents the united effort of clergy and faithful.

You are asked to read the enclosed reports and address your questions during the Assembly. The assembly agenda has been adjusted, so that the more crucial business will receive immediate attention.

The minutes of the previous Assembly have been approved by Bishop Michael and the Diocesan Council.

The Diocesan Council was elected at the Diocesan Assembly of November 9, 2010 for a term of three-years. Elections for Diocesan Council are scheduled for the 2013 Diocesan Assembly. Dr. Paul Witek was elected on November 9, 2010 as a lay representative of the diocese to the Metropolitan Council and served until he resigned in late 2011. Jane VanDyun was appointed by His Grace in early 2012 to fill the position.

Having worked with His Grace, I see first-hand the time and effort he gives. He does not live for himself; he lives for Christ and His Church. I thank him for entrusting me with the Office of Chancellor. I thank those who have assisted me: the deans and those who served on our diocesan departments.

We pray that the Most Holy Mother of God will protect our God-loving bishop as He serves Her Son and our Lord.

May the deliberations of this assembly be pleasing to our Lord.

In Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar

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