

# Office of Communications

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

### Report to the Diocesan Assembly

11 November 2014

Saints Peter & Paul Church ~ Endicott NY

27 October 2014

Your Grace, Reverend Fathers, esteemed Parish Delegates,  
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Christ is among us!*

I attempt to maintain an up-to-date listing of email contacts for all priests, deacons, commission/department heads, choir directors, and (most recently) church school coordinators throughout the diocese. This is critical to ensuring that all official communications are received by the intended audience. If you have been receiving these communications, you will hopefully agree that they are frequent, timely, and usually of importance to you. The only way this email list can be functionally operational is with your assistance; *please ensure that I have the active email addresses for your parish clergy, choir director, and church school coordinator/director*. If any change occurs, let me know immediately. Send your input to: [frski@rochester.rr.com](mailto:frski@rochester.rr.com)

Our diocesan website has been dynamic thanks to numerous suggestions, continual submissions of news items, and activity in the various ministries in the diocese. Since our Assembly last year, 97 headline news items have been posted! I strive to make information easily accessible and useful in form and content. Items of sustained interest remain on the homepage and are represented in “permanent” icon-links.

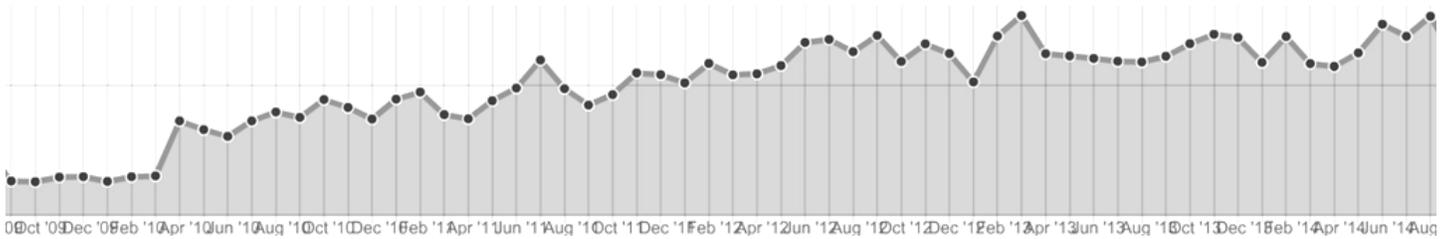
Often there will be an icon-link in the top location featuring a special event or a special interest that is timely. Recently an icon-link to this Assembly has been published, and it provides the primary source for all Assembly forms, documents, and reports; this mode of dissemination results in large financial savings in mailing and processing fees!



**Parish Directory** links to a database of all parishes and clergy (sponsored by the OCA website) and a very helpful searchable database of canonical Orthodox parishes throughout the United States and Canada; you can “find a parish” simply by entering a city/state or zip code! **About Orthodoxy** links to the excellent and concise resource based on the publication “*These Truths We Hold*” (compiled/edited by a Monk of Saint Tikhon's Monastery; 1986, Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press). **Lessons in Our Faith** offers an ever-growing selection of instructional videos by Bishop Michael. Each video is 8-12 minutes in length and may be viewed on any computer or mobile device. They are very popular! The fourteen videos currently produced and available have been viewed a combined 10,229 times; the installment “*Fasting: 7 Questions & 7 Answers*” has been viewed 3,020 times on-line. A biography of **Bishop Michael** is available. The bishop’s calendar ~ **Bishop’s Schedule** ~ is updated monthly and published. **Vision for Our Future** introduces the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor [DDB]** initiative and provides not only information but an invitation to become a DDB by making a convenient contribution on-line. **The DDB Program** link highlights the “honor roll” of current and past contributors. “**Jacob’s Well**” offers on-line versions of the official diocesan magazine, both current and past issues. **Clergy Stories** features video interviews with some of the distinguished senior pastors (and their wives) of our diocese. **Diocesan Commissions and Departments** icon-links to their respective webpages; of special note is the **Commission on Liturgical Music [CoLM]** which features a directory of choir directors, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy guidelines & music, printable service booklets, and an ever-growing array of 109 selections of liturgical sheet music (some with audio so choirs can hear the melody while rehearsing) offered by diocesan musicians as arrangements or original compositions. **Diocesan Assembly** provides information (documents and reports) regarding previous Assemblies. **Parish Council** presents information and videos from annual Parish Council Conferences and valuable resources for parishes. **Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention** has up-to-date information and resources to address this critically important aspect of parish life. There are also convenient icon-links to the **Orthodox Church in America** and the **Assembly of Orthodox Bishops**.

At the top of the diocesan website, you will find several tabs. “**Administration**” provides a complete listing, with contact information, for Bishop Michael, the Chancellor, Treasurer, and all diocesan Commissions, Departments, and Institutions. “**Directories**” offers a link to Saint Andrew’s Camp. “**Publications**” includes the Diocesan By-laws, Archpastoral letters to the diocese, Sexual Misconduct Policy, and more.

On the diocesan website you will also find a listing of upcoming diocesan events, official news releases, financial reports, and much more! You may ask, “*How effective is the website in communicating the life of our diocese?*” Good question! A large part of the answer rests with you. I hope you have visited the website regularly in the past and found it to be a good source of information and guidance. Please, utilize this communication resource in the future ... visit the website often, and provide me with your ideas, suggestions, and feedback so we can do even more, even better!



The graph (above) represents visits to our diocesan website from September 2009 to September 2014. In this time-span, monthly activity has steadily increased from 3,973 to 12,073. While the vast majority of visits are from people in the United States, our website touches an international audience:

Country	Pages
United States of America	153,162
Canada	2,613
Finland	1,919
Romania	1,211
Philippines	1,027
Unknown (code: ZZ)	718
France	717
Ukraine	660
Brazil	473
Russian Federation	394
Germany	366
United Kingdom	346
European Union	280
Italy	268
India	243
Serbia	217
China	154
Spain	138
Austria	130
Australia	103
Poland	101
Slovakia	99
Sweden	92
Israel	86
Taiwan	76
Ireland	66
Argentina	61
Cote d'Ivoire	57
Belarus	51
Thailand	39
Turkey	37
Georgia	37
Croatia	35
Colombia	35
Japan	34
Mexico	34
Panama	30
Denmark	29
Peru	29
Malaysia	29
Pakistan	29
Trinidad and Tobago	29
Benin	27
Vietnam	18
Nigeria	16
Latvia	14
Saudi Arabia	14
United Arab Emirates	11
South Africa	10
Greece	9
Czech Republic	8
Netherlands	5
Portugal	4
Mauritius	4
Bolivia	4
Lithuania	4
Ecuador	3
Korea, South	3
Hungary	2
Ghana	2
Singapore	2
Venezuela	2
New Zealand	2
Bulgaria	2
Chile	1

The next page in the life of our diocese begins following this Assembly. Going forth from our gathering, *“the grace of the Holy Spirit”* which assembles us will surely guide us to the fulfillment of all good things in their proper timing ... as long as we remain faithfully committed to the love of God and love for one another. Within a few days of our gathering, I hope to have the address of His Grace available as a video along with *“2014: The Year in Review”* on the diocesan webpage. I hope as many of our faithful as possible will find it possible to see and hear the message we receive from our hierarch, and know that they are uniquely precious members of Christ’s Body working and living out their salvation in our diocese and their parishes. I pray that they, and all of us, will be inspired and enthused to do the work set before us by the Holy Spirit and confirmed through our Assembly.

Please join me in prayers and supplications for the continued grace, strength, discernment, and well-being of our beloved Bishop Michael. I cannot express, for I do not fully know, the magnitude of his labors and concerns on our behalf. This I do know -- that his love and care for us has yet to be shown to have a limit; that while I only report and communicate a portion of what occurs in the life of our diocese, he is almost always at the very heart and foundation of all that happens. And, honestly, I am at times exhausted (albeit, in a good way) just reporting it! I praise God with a thankful heart for the steadfast faith, humility, service, witness, endurance, courage, vision, and guidance of His Grace. May our Lord grant peace, health, salvation, and furtherance in all good things to His Grace, Michael; a blessed shepherd of the holy Orthodox sheep-fold abiding in New York and New Jersey; a good and faithful servant of the one Good Shepherd. *“Eis polla eti Despota!”*

I cannot muster words to adequately thank all those who have shared their “good works” and “good news” with the rest of us by submitting them for publication on the diocesan website. May God continue to bless you abundantly! I have only one request: *“Keep the hits coming!”*

Your brother in our Lord, Jesus Christ,



Father Ken James Stavrevsky  
Office of Communications  
Director