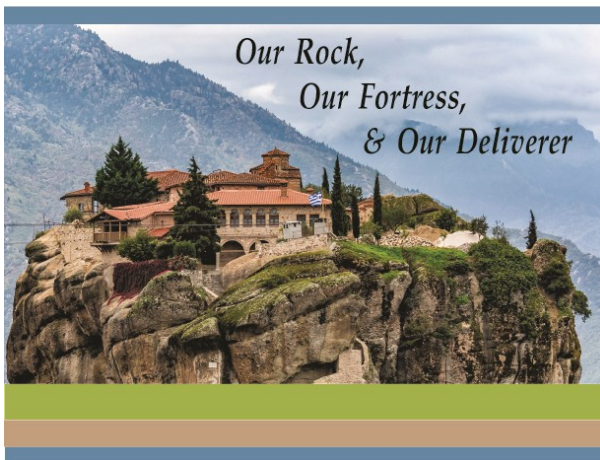# Jacob's Well Report
Diocese of New York-New Jersey Assembly
November 1, 2017

presented by Fr. John Shimchick

FINAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:
DECEMBER 1

The theme for our upcoming issue developed from a conversation I had this summer with Nathan Hoppe, OCMC Missionary in Albania and Doctor of Ministry student at St. Vladimir's Seminary. We were discussing potential ideas for his final project and he wanted to consider the work of building a Church in Albania where a foundation did not exist or had been destroyed. I suggested that, in a sense, this is a variation of what those of us in established parishes are also trying to do: build a foundation—but in our case —under mostly existing structures.

On one level, there is, of course, only one way to go about this work: as St. Paul has stated, there can be "no other foundation" than Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11). We know where to begin. But if this is so, one wonders why our discussions of Church life are so complicated and difficult: why do so many other concerns seem to dominate the priorities of our time, energy, and resources. Why do we want to build upon something else? There are also a growing number of voices—mostly outside, but some within Orthodoxy itself, particularly from young people—who affirm their love for Christ, but struggle to maintain an allegiance for the place of the Church: Can one love Christ, but not love or care for the Church?

So, these are the questions we look to explore in this issue. Fr. Lawrence Farley has written a provocative lead article and we've asked Nathan Hoppe and others to share their ideas. We'll highlight and celebrate events in our Diocese life.

This issue has taken longer than usual to come together, but we hope that within the next month to have all of the pieces together. Please send any articles (and photos) for consideration to me by DECEMBER 1 at a new address:

jgshimchick@gmail.com

Thanks.