

Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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On November 9, 2010, eighty-seven delegates (47 clergy / 40 laity) gathered at historic Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in New York City around His Grace, Bishop +Michael, for the annual Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The occasion marked Bishop +Michael's first Diocesan Assembly, as ruling hierarch of the diocese and presiding chair of the plenary sessions, following his consecration and enthronement on May 8-9 of this year.



In his address to the Assembly, His Grace introduced *“A Vision for Our Future.”* As approved by the delegates by unanimous acclamation, the vision focuses on building up the Church -- the Body of Christ -- by supporting and empowering ministry and growth at the parish and diocesan levels. Three major areas of concern were identified:

- ✓ Creation, establishment and support of new mission parishes
- ✓ Support for seminarians from the diocese and their retention when ordained
- ✓ Support for established parishes that may be struggling

Soon, the initiative to provide funding and financial support for these areas of focus will be inaugurated. The program will encourage participation on the part of individuals, parishes, and parish organizations as “Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors” in the life of the diocese. Contributions will be utilized only for the specific area identified and selected by the benefactors. In addition to the distribution of brochures highlighting “A Vision for Our Future” and an invitation to participate, the diocesan webpage will feature a special section of detailed information with an opportunity to make contributions by credit card on a one-time or recurring basis. It is hoped that the “Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor” program will be fully launched by the end of November 2010. The diocesan webpage at nynjoca.org will provide details and additional information as soon as it becomes available. A video of Bishop +Michael's address to the Assembly, and an array of photos from the gathering, are also available for viewing on the diocesan webpage through a web-link in the Diocesan Assembly news item. It is hoped that clergy and laity of the diocese will take this opportunity to hear and participate in the life of the diocese and a shared “Vision for Our Future.”

Reports and official documents, including financial documents and the 2011 budget, presented at the Assembly are available on the diocesan webpage at nynjoca.org/news_100730_1.html The official minutes of the Assembly with various motions and decisions rendered will be available soon.

