

Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
Annual Diocesan Assembly
Report of the Chancellor
July 19, 2011

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Your Grace, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Delegates and Observers to the Diocesan Assembly.

At the previous Diocesan Assembly, the newly consecrated hierarch for our diocese, His Grace, Bishop Michael, challenged our clergy and faithful with a vision, which has given a new direction to the diocese, the chancellor, deans, pastors and faithful.

In past years the Report of the Office of the Diocesan Chancellor was a lengthy summarization of diocesan administration during the years of instability and transition. Today, the Chancellor's report is brief, because the work of the diocese is being done through the leadership of our diocesan hierarch, His Grace, Bishop Michael, and a multitude of clergy and laity; and it is being done with precision, enthusiasm, joy, and great dedication as is evident in their reports to this Assembly.

The Diocesan Council is comprised of the following: His Grace, Bishop Michael, the chancellor, Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, the deans: Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, Archpriest Samuel Kedala, and Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk, and Archpriest Ken Stavrevsky (Council Secretary), Archpriest Daniel Degyansky, Archpriest Stephen Evanina, Matushka Mary Breton (Diocesan Treasurer), Scott Anderson, George Elia, and the representatives to the Metropolitan Council, Archpriest John Shimchick and Dr. Paul Witek. The Diocesan Council has met monthly. Its sessions are lengthy and detailed in discussion, and its minutes are posted to the diocesan website.

His Grace met monthly with the Deans and twice with the newly established Council of Presbyters. The Council of Presbyters consists of the chancellor, deans, two parish priests from each deanery (Archpriest Igor Burdikoff, Igumen Christopher (Calin), Archpriest Ken Stavrevsky, Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff, Archpriest Joseph Breton and Priest Stephen Evanina), two retired clergy (Archpriest John Nehrebecki and Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky), and its chairman, Bishop Michael. The diocesan administration, priestly ministry, and life within the parish are reviewed by these bodies.

The meetings of the Diocesan Council, Deans, the Council of Presbyters and other diocesan bodies includes a regular order of business, but always begins with a Service of Intercession for the health and welfare of our diocesan clergy and faithful. The dedication and love of His Grace for the diocese is reflected in the vision he has set for the diocese, his tireless travels across its territory, visitations to parishes, the emphasis he places on preaching and teaching, and in his personal conversations with the faithful, and is especially evident as he gathers with his clergy and faithful in prayer.

The new direction for the diocese encompasses the following:

- the *Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors* to fund mission parishes, scholarships for seminarians, and help for established parishes (*Operation Buffalo*, Saints Peter and Paul Church of Buffalo being first parish to receive attention)
- a communications department
- the diocesan magazine, *Jacob's Well*
- on-going mission and evangelism conferences
- a church growth boot camp
- diocesan-wide parish council conferences
- receptions for seminary students and their families, who are considering entering the diocese

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a program for the education and training of deacons
a standardized diocesan-wide parish by-law
retreats for youth, annual clergy retreat, and altar server retreats
an social outing for youth
a *Deacons' Day of Public Service* in feeding the hungry,
social gatherings for our clergy in summer and winter hosted by His Grace.

Our Archpastoral Shepherd, His Grace, Bishop Michael, has gained the trust and confidence of the clergy and the faithful of the God-saved Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The diocesan vision he has set addresses the practical and immediate issues, and is directed toward the building of a foundation for the future of the diocese. Our faithful are encouraged to give special attention and financial support to the programs (DDB), which endeavor *to give a future to our past*.

I express my personal gratitude to His Grace for His blessing to serve this past year as chancellor of the diocese, and for his encouragement and direction.

On behalf of the clergy and faithful of the diocese, we give our gratitude and appreciation to our bishop, who labors not for himself but for Christ and His Church. We pray that our Lord will grant him many and good years as a laborer in His Vineyard. *Eis polla eti Despota!*

In Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar