

Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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Bishop's call for "OPERATION ONEONTA" successful!

Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean of the New York State Deanery, exclaimed: *"What is impossible with man, is possible with God!"* In early November, Bishop Michael once again called upon the good-will of volunteers throughout the Diocese of New York and New Jersey to come together and contribute their time, talent, and treasure in an effort to assist another diocesan parish: Saint Innocent Mission in Oneonta NY.

Following the overwhelming success of "OPERATION BUFFALO" (1-13 August 2011), the vision clearly articulated by His Grace of expanding the ministries of the diocese -- assisting struggling existing parishes and missions -- has been enthusiastically supported by Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. Thus, the goal of renovating and establishing a new worship space for Saint Innocent Mission Parish in the lower level of Saint James Episcopal Church in Oneonta has been accomplished.

Work days were conducted on Saturdays: 26 November, 3 December, and 10 December. Additionally, work was done on most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of these three weeks. Volunteers from throughout the diocese came to join in "OPERATION ONEONTA."

They offered skills in painting, electrical work, and carpentry/woodworking, under the diligent care and supervision of Father Thomas Langdon, Father Timothy Holowatch, and John Koch. They completely transformed the "cluttered space" into "sacred space," befitting the beauty of Orthodox Worship.



In reflecting on the experience, Allen Costello, Joe Matty, John Olsen, and Subdeacon Michael Pylypsiw said this transformation reminded them of their own love and appreciation for "the beauty of God's house." They felt blessed beyond measure to have been able to contribute to it, and to participate in this way with Bishop Michael's love for his churches.

Special gratitude is expressed to Father Thomas Langdon, Father Timothy Holowatch, the New York State Deanery, and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey for their tireless efforts on behalf of Saint Innocent Mission.

