



**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY**

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 11, 2012

Your Grace, Bishop +MICHAEL, Very Reverend & Reverend Clergy, Brothers & Sisters in Christ.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The financial situation of the Diocese, as presented in the accompanying report and those posted monthly on the website, shows that we are managing operations as closely as possible. Expenses reflect bare-bones spending and exclude out-of-pocket expenses incurred by many volunteers who do not submit reimbursement requests. If you have specific questions about certain expenses which may require detailed answers, please email me so I can respond appropriately.

Our main source of support, the parish assessment, has been insufficient to fund the operations of the Diocese. However, the activity of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB) has filled in the gap and allowed the Diocese to fund the departments and operate the many wonderful programs you have heard about in the other reports. Without the continued success of the DDB program, the Diocese may be faced with cutting programs or increasing assessments or both. Later in the meeting we will review the proposed 2013 budget, which is a deficit budget without DDB. Because the DDB program is totally voluntary, it could be argued that we should increase the assessment and cut programs because we have no assurance that the DDB funds will be received. But we have not done so. We pray that following His Grace's leadership and example, both our Diocesan faithful and our friends outside of the Diocese will continue to support this effort.

During 2012, two parishes transitioned from assessments to "tithing" as their way of remitting their funds to the Diocese. After the rectors received the blessing of His Grace, and in consultation with me as Diocesan treasurer, the parishes began remitting a 10% tithe monthly to the Diocese. Additionally, to allow the parishes and the Diocese an adjustment period, both parishes guaranteed that the 2012 remittance based on tithing would not be less than the assessment calculation. Not only does tithing reduce the focus on the parish census, but also it brings the parish and parishioners closer to a biblical and spiritual method of giving. This was the focus of the parish council conferences this past

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summer. When your parish is ready to discuss transitioning to this method of remittance, or if you have any questions about how to begin, please contact me.

In order to operate the financial administration of the Diocese more smoothly, we ask the following:

- Rectors and Parish Treasurers:
 - a. Please call or email me if you are not receiving your monthly assessment mailing. Also, please let me know if your remittance will be late and how long it might continue. Unless we hear otherwise, we look for a remittance from each parish each month.
 - b. Please be sure to submit a copy of your parish's annual financial statements to His Grace, via the Chancellor, with the minutes of your parish annual meeting.
- Anyone seeking reimbursement of approved expenses:
 - a. Please submit your expense reimbursement requests with receipts and documentation to the Treasurer's Office, PO Box 372, Wayne, NJ 07474-0372 or email to MaryB@rllp.com. Handing it to your priest or dean or His Grace will not accelerate the process!
 - b. If you have an expense reimbursement which is time-sensitive, please let me know about this as far in advance as possible so we can coordinate the logistics of having the check signed by the two required signers.

Thank you to Stephanie Burk, who is both the Chancellor's and the Treasurer's assistant. She handles an incredible volume of paperwork and keeps things running smoothly.

I pray that our Diocesan financial situation will stabilize and improve so that we can continue funding the many exciting programs and activities which are occurring in the vineyard of New York & New Jersey.

With love in Christ,

Matushka Mary

Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, Diocesan Treasurer