
Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Report to the Diocesan Assembly

11 December 2012

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church ~ Clifton NJ

23 October 2012

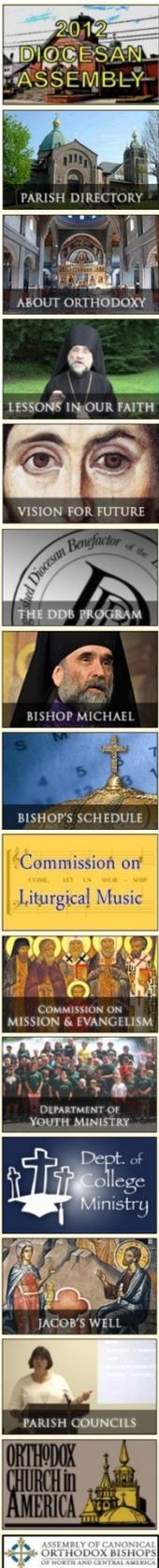
Your Grace, Reverend Fathers, esteemed Parish Delegates,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is among us!

It has been seventeen months since we last gathered in holy assembly as a diocesan family. What an amazing time it has been! There is noticeable vigor and discernible enthusiasm to a degree previously unrealized in the life of our diocese thanks, in part, to three blessed realities: leadership, inspiration, and cooperation. In words and actions, Bishop Michael provides leadership and inspiration in an open, honest, and transparent manner always seeking to unite us in a true spirit of cooperation through love. In our Diocesan Council meetings, leadership and inspiration characterize discussions and deliberations as decisions effecting the good-estate of our diocese are taken. The senior advisory group to His Grace, the Council of Presbyters, brings a dimension of “wisdom seasoned with maturity” to issues brought before them in Bishop Michael’s desire to establish cooperation built upon their advice and accord. I am in a privileged position to witness the faithful efforts and significant labors of those leading and serving in diocesan commissions, departments, and offices. By my count, we are gifted with 20 clergy and 9 laity significantly engaged in assisting His Grace on a regular and on-going basis. I encourage you to join me in thanking each one of them for their leadership, their inspiration, and their spirit of cooperation. Of course, it all comes together and succeeds thanks to His Grace, our beloved Bishop Michael. Truly, we have been greatly blessed: ***Glory to God for all things!***

I attempt to maintain an up-to-date listing of email contacts for all clergy, commission/department heads, and choir directors throughout the diocese. This is critical to ensuring that all official communications are received by the intended audience. If you have been receiving these communications, you will no doubt agree that they are frequent, timely, and usually of importance to you. The only way this email list can be functionally operational is with your assistance; please ensure that I have your active email address and, if any change occurs, let me know immediately.

The growth and development of our diocesan website has been extraordinary thanks to numerous suggestions, continual submissions of news items, and activity in the various ministries budding forth in the diocese. I attempt to make information easily accessible and useful in form and content. Items of sustained interest remain on the homepage and are represented in “permanent” icon-links:



Often there will be an icon-link in the “top” location featuring a special event or a special interest that is timely. In this case, it is the [Diocesan Assembly](#) website with all related documents and reports. A [Parish Directory](#) links to a database of all parishes and clergy (sponsored by the OCA website). [About Orthodoxy](#) links to the excellent and concise resource based on the publication “*These Truths We Hold*” (compiled/edited by a Monk of St. Tikhon's Monastery; Copyright 1986 by the St. Tikhon's Seminary Press). [Lessons in Our Faith](#) offers an ever-growing selection of instructional videos by Bishop Michael. Each video is 8-12 minutes in length and downloadable to any computer or device. They are very popular! The nine videos currently produced and available have been viewed a combined 7,231 times; the installment “*Fasting: 7 Questions & 7 Answers*” has been viewed 2,722 times, and the most recent “*Marriage: 7 Questions & 7 Answers*” has been viewed 429 times in just 15 days on-line. [Vision for Our Future](#) introduces the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor [DDB] initiative and provides not only information but an invitation to become a DDB by making a convenient contribution on-line. [The DDB Program](#) link highlights the “honor roll” of current and past contributors. A biography and other information about [Bishop Michael](#) are available. The bishop’s calendar ~ [Bishop’s Schedule](#) ~ is updated monthly and published. A fairly new feature is the website of the [Commission on Liturgical Music](#). The site is full of information and resources including a complete directory of choir directors, substitute choir directors, and designated mentors for new or inexperienced choir directors. Music composed and/or arranged by diocesan musicians is being accepted for review and publication on the website; 48 pieces are already on-line (many with “listen to” audio files included). There is a dedicated website for the [Commission on Mission & Evangelism](#) managed by the director, Father Jonathan Ivanoff. Father Jason Vansuch (chairperson) manages the website for the [Department of Youth Ministry](#). Although presently on-line, the website for the [Department of College Ministry](#) in under construction with inputs from the chairperson, Father John Diamantis. The site, to be completed before the Diocesan Assembly of 2012, will offer a wide array of resources, links, and connections. “[Jacob’s Well](#)” (our official diocesan publication/magazine) is edited by Father John Shimchick and distributed in bulk mailings of hardcopy issues to our parishes ... and, it is available on-line through our website. Current and past issues are archived and may be downloaded from the site. A special [Parish Councils](#) webpage features video presentations recorded at our recent Parish Council Conferences in 2012. Of course, the [Orthodox Church in America](#) is represented by a special icon-link to the official website; and another icon-link accesses the website of the [Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#).

On the diocesan website you will also find current news and information, a listing of upcoming diocesan events, official news releases, financial reports, and much more! You may ask, “How effective is the website in communicating the life our diocese?” Good question!



As you can see, from October 2009 to the present, there has been a steady and significant increase in the number of “visits/hits” to our website ... this is in direct correlation to the re-design and continuing development of the website since the establishment of the Office of Communications.

Year	Total Visitors	Visitors per Day	Unique Visitors	Unique Ratio	Pages	Hits	BW
2009	16,361	106.9	5,972	37%	161,148	646,707	10.8G
2010	56,176	153.9	15,523	28%	984,069	3,149,323	51.5G
2011	86,624	237.3	26,651	31%	2,159,585	5,893,075	90.4G
2012	91,122	307.5	26,732	29%	2,058,218	5,216,755	86.9G
	250,283		74,878		5,363,020	14,905,860	239.6G

The numbers are astounding. Take a look at an average recent week:

Day	Date	Visits	Pages	per Visit	Hits	per Visit
Monday	1 Oct '12	465	10,397	22.4	27,203	58.5
Tuesday	2 Oct '12	460	12,434	27.0	32,569	70.8
Wednesday	3 Oct '12	415	15,087	36.4	32,505	78.3
Thursday	4 Oct '12	400	13,104	32.8	28,865	72.2
Friday	5 Oct '12	377	9,362	24.8	23,445	62.2
Saturday	6 Oct '12	324	7,524	23.2	19,008	58.7
Sunday	7 Oct '12	295	5,910	20.0	15,106	51.2

As the diocesan commissions, departments, and offices were established and blessed by Bishop Michael, the level of energy and activity in the diocese flourished. That means there is much to communicate, and there is apparently an audience eager to learn more about what's going on.

And, the audience is world-wide!

Country	Pages	%	Hits	%	Bandwidth	%
 United States of America	176,911	94.8%	452,498	93.7%	7.3G	87.7%
 Canada	3,070	1.6%	8,665	1.8%	183.2M	2.1%
 Romania	926	0.5%	1,610	0.3%	33.5M	0.4%
 Japan	725	0.4%	1,140	0.2%	25.1M	0.3%
 Russian Federation	432	0.2%	1,718	0.4%	33.6M	0.4%
 France	428	0.2%	1,392	0.3%	55.6M	0.7%
 United Kingdom	365	0.2%	1,659	0.3%	45.8M	0.5%
 Germany	320	0.2%	876	0.2%	31.5M	0.4%
 Serbia	301	0.2%	727	0.2%	12.7M	0.1%
 Ukraine	282	0.2%	658	0.1%	14.4M	0.2%
 Greece	242	0.1%	598	0.1%	12.3M	0.1%
 Mexico	204	0.1%	520	0.1%	11.9M	0.1%
 Switzerland	178	0.1%	370	0.1%	7.4M	0.1%
 Moldova	162	0.1%	256	0.1%	3.0M	0.0%
 Australia	135	0.1%	744	0.2%	17.0M	0.2%
 Poland	130	0.1%	665	0.1%	6.9M	0.1%
 Brazil	122	0.1%	432	0.1%	27.3M	0.3%
 Puerto Rico	113	0.1%	311	0.1%	4.1M	0.0%
 Thailand	98	0.1%	324	0.1%	5.1M	0.1%
 New Zealand	88	0.0%	243	0.1%	3.5M	0.0%
 Georgia	85	0.0%	559	0.1%	13.5M	0.2%

 China	78	0.0%	325	0.1%	285.7M	3.3%
 Israel	70	0.0%	342	0.1%	4.8M	0.1%
 Colombia	67	0.0%	218	0.0%	5.9M	0.1%
 Ireland	65	0.0%	442	0.1%	8.8M	0.1%
 Sweden	53	0.0%	378	0.1%	7.7M	0.1%
 United Arab Emirates	50	0.0%	130	0.0%	1.5M	0.0%
 Netherlands	48	0.0%	291	0.1%	95.6M	1.1%
 India	45	0.0%	222	0.0%	6.1M	0.1%
 Italy	44	0.0%	245	0.1%	2.5M	0.0%
 Czech Republic	44	0.0%	348	0.1%	5.7M	0.1%
 Malaysia	42	0.0%	161	0.0%	1.5M	0.0%
 Nigeria	37	0.0%	281	0.1%	444.1k	0.0%
 Hungary	36	0.0%	180	0.0%	1.4M	0.0%
 Philippines	35	0.0%	191	0.0%	4.1M	0.0%
 Tanzania	35	0.0%	106	0.0%	1.0M	0.0%
 Cote d'Ivoire	34	0.0%	232	0.0%	3.0M	0.0%
 Lebanon	33	0.0%	201	0.0%	7.1M	0.1%
 Macedonia	30	0.0%	168	0.0%	1.3M	0.0%
 Bulgaria	27	0.0%	105	0.0%	1.1M	0.0%
 Honduras	26	0.0%	97	0.0%	1.0M	0.0%
 Togo	26	0.0%	99	0.0%	1.3M	0.0%

 Rwanda	24	0.0%	204	0.0%	2.2M	0.0%
 Egypt	22	0.0%	95	0.0%	3.8M	0.0%
 Spain	20	0.0%	138	0.0%	3.7M	0.0%
 Finland	20	0.0%	82	0.0%	809.8k	0.0%
 Turkey	18	0.0%	88	0.0%	707.5k	0.0%
 Hong Kong	18	0.0%	19	0.0%	741.9k	0.0%
 Palestine	16	0.0%	87	0.0%	4.8M	0.1%
 Slovakia	16	0.0%	101	0.0%	26.2M	0.3%
 South Africa	15	0.0%	85	0.0%	1.1M	0.0%
 Guatemala	15	0.0%	86	0.0%	657.2k	0.0%
 Ethiopia	15	0.0%	85	0.0%	657.1k	0.0%
 Vietnam	15	0.0%	86	0.0%	656.8k	0.0%
 Argentina	15	0.0%	83	0.0%	901.1k	0.0%
 European Union	14	0.0%	84	0.0%	656.8k	0.0%
 Austria	13	0.0%	73	0.0%	737.1k	0.0%
 Burkina Faso	10	0.0%	71	0.0%	623.5k	0.0%
 Norway	9	0.0%	185	0.0%	2.6M	0.0%
 Taiwan	9	0.0%	75	0.0%	2.5M	0.0%
 Denmark	8	0.0%	71	0.0%	664.3k	0.0%
 Kuwait	8	0.0%	71	0.0%	692.2k	0.0%
 Trinidad and Tobago	7	0.0%	68	0.0%	594.8k	0.0%

The next page in the life of our diocese begins following this Assembly. Going forth from our gathering, the “grace of the Holy Spirit” which assembles us will surely guide us to the fulfillment of all good things in their proper timing ... as long as we remain faithfully committed to the love of God and love for one another. Within a few days of our gathering, I hope to have the address of His Grace available as a video on the diocesan webpage. I hope as many of our faithful as possible will find it possible to see and hear the message we receive from our hierarch, and know that they are uniquely precious members of Christ’s Body working and living out their salvation in our diocese and their parishes. I pray that they, and all of us, will be inspired and enthused to do the work set before us by the Holy Spirit and confirmed through our Assembly.

Please join me in prayers and supplications for the continued grace, strength, discernment, and well-being of our beloved Bishop Michael. I cannot express, for I do not fully know, the magnitude of his labors and concerns on our behalf. This I do know -- that his love and care for us has yet to be shown to have a limit; that while I only report and communicate a portion of what occurs in the life of our diocese, he is almost always at the very heart and foundation of all that happens. And, honestly, I am at times exhausted (albeit, in a good way) just reporting it! I praise God with a thankful heart for the steadfast faith, humility, service, witness, endurance, courage, vision, and guidance of His Grace. May our Lord grant peace, health, salvation, and furtherance in all good things to His Grace, Michael; a blessed shepherd of the holy Orthodox sheep-fold abiding in New York and New Jersey; a good and faithful servant of the one Good Shepherd. ***“Eis polla eti Despota!”***

I cannot muster words to adequately thank all those who have shared their “good works” and “good news” with the rest of us by submitting them for publication on the diocesan website. May God continue to bless you abundantly! I have only one request: *“Keep the hits coming!”*

Your brother in our Lord, Jesus Christ,



Father Ken James Stavrevsky
Office of Communications
Director