

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
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November 12, 2013

**Report of the Diocesan Chancellor**

Your Grace, Reverend Clergy and Lay Delegates:

**Financial Assistance to Hurricane Sandy Victims**

The Diocesan Council in January 2013 created a fund to assist those who incurred losses from the November Hurricane Sandy and application forms requesting financial assistance were made available via the internet and postal mail. Six applications were received and disbursements totaled \$20,950 to five individuals and the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul of Manville, NJ. A balance of \$2,386 remains. The Diocesan Council concurred the awards to individuals would remain anonymous. Donations were received from faithful of the diocese as well as from across the country.

**Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention in the Diocese**

*The Policy, Standards, and Procedures* of the Orthodox Church in America have been affirmed and adopted by the Diocese of New York and New Jersey.

A parish is required annually to forward written confirmation to the Office of the Diocesan Chancellor of the parish's compliance to *Policies, Standards, and Procedures* as published by the Orthodox Church in America. The rector and the parish council are required to read the documentation, implement the policies and standards, and to enter into the parish minutes confirmation that this has been completed.

As part of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey's continuing dedication to addressing this matter clergy and parish council members were invited to participate in three regional (by deanery) conferences during which Michael Herzak, a subject matter expert, presented valuable information and recommendations. This training was mandated by the Diocesan Assembly of 2012. A video of Mr. Herzak's presentation on the "**Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse in our Parishes**" is available on the diocesan website.

**Parish Annual Reports**

Parish Rectors and Councils are requested to forward annually to the Diocesan Bishop the reports presented at their Annual Parish Meeting. These include Income, Expense and Balance Sheet Reports, Minutes of the Annual Meeting, the Report of the Rector and a letter requesting the blessing of the elected Parish Council.

**Announcing Diocesan Events**

Projects initiated by the diocese and posted on the diocesan website and conveyed through the mail should be made available in parish publications and the parish website. These are intended to build-up the life of the parish.