

**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

November 11, 2014

Your Grace, Honorable Clergy and Lay Delegates:

The life of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey today is the culmination of a half a decade of leadership by His Grace, Bishop Michael. The achievements of these years began with setting a Vision for the Future and the formation of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors, which provides financial support for seminarians, missions and existing parishes, and increased with the following:

Annual Youth Day	Department of College Ministry
Annual Youth Retreat	Department of Christian Education
Annual Altar Server Retreat	Diaconal Program
Annual Parish Council Conferences	Jacob's Well publication
Annual Visitation of Parishes	Lessons in the Faith (Video Series)
Commission on Liturgical Music	Music Appreciation Day for Directors and Singers
Commission on Mission and Evangelization	Office of Communication
Council of Presbyters	Spiritual Court
Department of Youth	

His Grace has provided oversight for St. Andrew's Camp: setting the curriculum and encouraging clergy participation; established the first Diocesan Girls Retreat for November 2014; provided leadership in the discernment of parish needs in the assignment of clergy; developed Diocesan By-Laws; provided conflict resolution for parishes; cared for ill clergy and families; honored clergy for distinguished service and anniversaries. The value of experienced and retired clergy and wives was documented on video sharing the priestly experiences and parish life of the past.

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.

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The Holy Synod of Bishops the Orthodox Church in America issued the revised *Guidelines on Background Checks* (March 2014), and revised on dated July 30, 2014. This document is included among the reports presented at this Assembly.

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.

Fifth Anniversary Celebration

In gratitude, the Diocesan Council announces that the fifth anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Michael will be commemorated on Saturday, May 9, 2015 with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Baptist Church, Passaic, NJ and a commemorative luncheon at the Brownstone Catering, Paterson, NJ. It will be an occasion for prayer and thanksgiving. Details of this event will be made available.

Submitted by

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar

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