

# NEW JERSEY DEANERY

## THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

### Report to the 2014 Diocesan Assembly

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Your Grace, brother clergy, and lay delegates and observers to the Diocesan Assembly,

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Our deanery currently consists of twenty-six parishes, missions, and institutions. All are served by priests of our deanery, and all contribute greatly to the life of the deanery.

The clergy of the deanery meet regularly throughout the year. Deanery meetings are held at host parishes on a rotating basis. At these meetings, the work of the Church at the deanery level is discussed, and decisions are made that are deemed necessary to accomplish this work in a God-pleasing and effective way. These meetings also serve as opportunities to form and strengthen brotherly bonds between clergy. Gratefully, His Grace, Bishop Michael, is a frequent participant in these meetings.

Bishop Michael provides yet other opportunities to strengthen clergy bonds not only between the priests and deacons, but between their families as well. Twice yearly, His Grace hosts clergy family get-togethers to help achieve this goal. The clergy and their families truly appreciate and are thankful to His Grace for these wonderful events.

The past year was filled with parish celebrations. St. John the Baptist Church in Spring Valley celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. Among those parishes celebrating fifty years since their founding were: St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappingers Falls, Holy Trinity Church in Randolph, and Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne. Holy Transfiguration Chapel in Princeton, an institution within the deanery, also celebrated a 50-year anniversary. Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook observed its 45-year anniversary. Next year, Sts. Peter and Paul Church in South River will celebrate its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Manville, St. Spiridon Church in Perth Amboy, and St. Vladimir Church in Trenton will all celebrate 100 years since their founding. St. John the Baptist Church will observe 90 years of witnessing to the Gospel of Christ in Passaic.

Several ordinations took place in the deanery this past year. In July, Deacon Volodymyr Chaykivsky was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. Spiridon Church in Perth Amboy, where he is currently attached. In June, Subdeacon David Maliniak was ordained to the

Diaconate at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, where he is attached and serving. May God grant them many years of service to God's Holy Church.

The deanery has three seminarians currently studying at St. Tikhon's Seminary: Deacon Gregory White, Deacon Theodore Gregory, and Veljko Pejovic. May God bless them in their studies and their future ministries as leaders of the Church.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy was celebrated this year by the deanery clergy and faithful at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City. His Grace, the Right Reverend Mark, Bishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, was the celebrant and homilist. On the Sundays of Great Lent, the Deanery served two separate Mission Vespers services – one in the northern region of the deanery, and one in the southern area. On Bright Wednesday, the deanery celebrated a joint Vespers service with Bishop Michael presiding.

As was the case with the other two deaneries, our deanery held the Parish Council Conference (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, South River), and the Church School Teachers/Parents Conference (Holy Trinity Church, Randolph). The annual Diocesan Clergy Conference was hosted this year by the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Clifton. The annual recognition dinner for the deanery's Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors was also held in Clifton.

I would personally like to thank Archpriest David Vernak, the Assistant Dean of our deanery, for all his help and efforts in maintaining strength and order throughout the deanery.

As a deanery, we continue to strive to serve God and witness to His Good News. We pray that He continues to guide us in our efforts, and we give thanks to Him for providing the leadership of His Grace, Bishop Michael who shepherds us along the journey to His Heavenly Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Gary Joseph Breton, Dean