

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR

September 29, 2015

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Lay Delegates and Observers:

Our diocesan website at 'www.nynjoca' is evidence that we are a very vibrant Church addressing all ages and various needs. The scheduling of our programs and events have become annual occurrences striving to meet the expectations of the faithful, and no need is too small to address.

The participation of the clergy and laity in diocesan-wide discussions of the **Statute of the Orthodox Church in America** and **Funding of the Church** were extremely valuable, and our delegates to the All American Council in July shared in the approval of these for the good order and life of the Church.

The **Funding of the Church** calls for the elimination of the head tax and transition to proportionate giving from the parish to diocese and to the central administration. How we will accomplish this, or how this transition will be implemented in each parish and the diocese needs our attention during the coming year.

Utilization of **Electronic Communication** has assisted in improved communication in our diocesan life, and reduced diocesan and parish printing costs and snail mail. Pastors and lay leaders are encouraged to monitor and utilize their systems to improve communication.

The **March for Life** in 2016 will be held on Thursday, January 21st in Washington, D. C. In order for the voice of the Orthodox to be heard, it is necessary to join with thousands from the United States in a united voice to protect the unborn. Our clergy and faithful are encouraged to plan within deaneries or localities transportation to this event.

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America approved and issued a revised **Policy, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct** at the fall 2013 Holy Synod Meeting. This policy is now in force in the Church. It is the goal of the entire Church to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

Cindy Heise, LMSW, the Coordinator of Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA), has compiled for parish use a simplified form regarding the parish implementation of the PSPs and procedure. By the end of each calendar year **the compliance form** is to be completed and submitted by the parish rector to His Eminence for his presentation to the 2016 Spring Holy Synod Meeting. The compliance form is available in our online registration packet, and at <http://oca.org/PDF/sexual-misconduct/2015-08-abbreviated-psp.pdf>.

Reports of Annual Parish Finances, Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, and Request for Approval of the Elected Parish Council should be submitted annually to the Office of the Archbishop. Blessing to install the Parish Council will be given upon receipt of these documents and request.

Our diocesan committee chairpersons, representatives and workers, diocesan treasurer, the deans, and the Diocesan Council serve faithfully, and Father Ken Stavrevsky tells their story on our website in an attractive and exciting manner.

There would be no story tell if it were not for our creative diocesan hierarch, Archbishop Michael, who so many times is the originator and guide of our diocesan activity. While overseeing all of that, he is “on hands” in administrative work of the diocese, celebrating somewhere in the diocese every Saturday/Sunday and Feast, visiting clergy, engaging the youth, dialoging with non-Orthodox, the Rector and Chief Executive Officer and Professor of St. Tikhon’s Seminary, teaching on our Website Classroom, *Lessons in our Faith*, and most recently launching the latest project, two new monthly newsletters: "First Fruits" and "Beyond the Plateau."

As this diocesan assembly convenes let us give thanks to our Lord for the Shepherd He has placed to lead the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and let us pledge ourselves to greater service to our Lord and to one another.

In Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar