

Report to the Diocesan Assembly November 10, 2015

OCA Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid (CSHA)

Diana Pasca, Member

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

Faith is an awesome thing. Many of us who profess to believe in Christ often testify to others about the virtue of having an active faith in the Lord, and when asked say that it is our faith in God that sees us through the dark and sad times in our life. This shared faith leads to a compassionate community.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28. Compassionate people surround us. Often they are lost in the shadows of those who live in the spotlight. Truly compassionate people are those who go about their business quietly and faithfully, helping in soup kitchens, hospitals, care centers, and classrooms. They are the people who stop for the person with the flat tire, or ask a new parish visitor home for lunch. Without any fanfare they cross social boundaries and share their resources with strangers. They lead with their hearts.

With the Blessing and encouragement of His Eminence Bishop Michael, I was appointed to be the Departments’ representative to the **Diocesan Ministry Network**. The Network is made up of representatives from each OCA diocese in an initiative to strengthen parish ministries and charitable outreach programs throughout the Church. The goal of the Diocesan Ministry Network is to assist in the development of parish ministries. We would like to identify the particular kinds of ministry groups that exist within our Diocesan parishes, and create a sharing-of-ideas network of groups and individuals. I ask that a representative be appointed or volunteer from each parish to the Diocesan Ministry Network so we may begin the information flow. I look forward to hearing what your parish is working on and assist you. Please contact me with the information about a parish representative, questions, ideas or resources you want to share with other parishes: diana.pasca@comcast.net or 609-953-4705. I look forward to hearing from you.

In Christ,

Diana Pasca