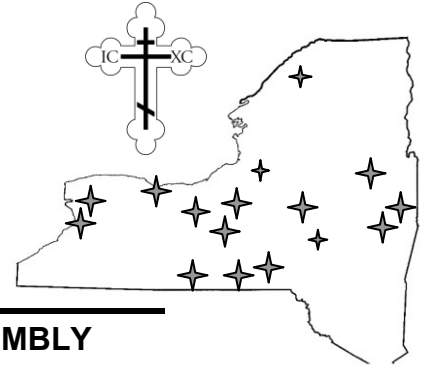


**New York State Deanery**  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Orthodox Church in America



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**REPORT TO THE 2016 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**

1 November 2016

Your Eminence Archbishop Michael and Delegates to the Assembly,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The past year was very active and positive in a life of the New York State Deanery thanks to the vision and Archpastoral ministry of Archbishop Michael, and outstanding work, cooperation, good will, and sacrifices of our priests, deacons, and laity.

Our thanks go to Father Ken James Stavrevsky for his hard work to improve the communications in our deanery and for maintaining our beautiful diocesan website, probably the best in the OCA! Thank you Father Ken, and may God continue to bless you and your efforts!

We offer our gratitude to numerous volunteers in our parishes, deanery, and diocese, whose selfless and often unrecognized labors make all the difference in the life of our communities! In the midst of challenges, our deanery continues to be very active and focused on the growth of parishes and missions through ministries, outreach, education and evangelization.

The following events took place in the deanery:

- Saints Peter and Paul Church in Endicott NY hosted the Diocesan Diaconal Formation Program every Saturday from September through the end of May. Our diocesan students/graduates are doing great and are actively involved in service (*diaconia*) and witness (*martiria*) in their home parishes, deaneries, and the diocese.
- Christmas Social get-together hosted by Archbishop Michael for clergy and families of the deanery at Basil Leaf Restaurant in Syracuse NY. It was a wonderful occasion for fellowship and celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with our Archpastor.
- During Theophany season, the Great Blessing of Waters at Cayuga Lake was hosted by Holy Apostles Mission in Lansing NY.
- Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs) from throughout the deanery gathered in Syracuse NY for an Appreciation Dinner. During the year 2016, DDBs contributed record-breaking donations to support vital ministries; the work of the Church is being funded as never before! There are visible “fruits” of their labors and efforts as mission parishes are being established and supported, seminarians are receiving scholarships, and struggling parishes are being revitalized. We ask for your continuous generous support of DDB

- The 5th Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat was held at Saint Basil Academy in Garrison NY. Over 45 participants were present for all or part of the weekend. Altar servers and clergy came from each of the three deaneries -- New York City, New Jersey, New York State -- as well as from the Moscow Patriarchate and Carpatho-Russian Diocese. Archbishop Michael led the retreat together with four priests, two deacons, a sub-deacon and Reader.
- A deanery meeting and Lenten Retreat with a Continuous Clergy Education Program was held in Syracuse NY.
- Parish Council Conference on the subject of Diocesan transition from per capital assessments to a Proportional Funding Model was held in Watervliet NY with more than 40 people in attendance (10 clergy), conducted by the diocesan treasurer, Matushka Mary Buletza Breton. The presentation was well received and facilitated important and lively discussions.
- Saint Tikhon's Seminary Clergy Symposium: a large number of deanery clergy participated in this continuous education opportunity. It provided outstanding presentations as well as opportunities for fellowship and discussions.
- Clergy and Families Picnic: held in Lansing NY, hosted by Archbishop Michael. It brought together 30-40 priests, deacons, Matushki, and children for the purpose of strengthening our bonds of brotherhood among clergy and with our Archpastor.
- Sunday School Teachers and Parents Conference: held in Rochester NY, addressing the crucial need of educating our youth and involving them in singing and worship of the church.
- Youth and clergy from deanery parishes and missions were actively involved in Saint Tikhon's and Saint Andrew's Camp summer programs (July-August). They attended as camp directors, counselors, volunteers, and campers; most notable participation came from Rochester, Endicott, Lansing, Buffalo, and a few others.
- Annual Clergy Conference: Priests and deacons from across the farthest reaches of the diocese - downstate NJ (Mays Landing) to upstate NY (Buffalo) - gathered with Archbishop Michael in Clifton NJ at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church for the 2016 Diocesan Clergy Conference. Nine accredited hours of Clergy Continuing Education [CCE] were available to meet the annual requirement of twenty CCE credits established by the Orthodox Church in America for all clergy. In addition, priests and deacons enjoyed and benefited from fellowship in prayer, unity in study, spiritual renewal, and a strengthening of brotherly affection among pastoral ministers.

Recent Parish Anniversaries were celebrated in NY State Deanery:

- - Herkimer NY: 100th Anniversary
- - Elmira NY: 100th Anniversary

May God grant the clergy and faithful of these parishes *Many Years!*

Pastoral Changes:

- Father Vasil Dubee was assigned Acting Rector of Saint Innocent Mission in Oneonta NY and moved there with Matushka Lesia and daughter Veronica.
- Father Thaddeus Franta was assigned as Acting Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Herkimer NY; we welcome him into our deanery and the diocese, and wish him and Matushka Velislava every success as they begin their service in the parish.

God grant them health, salvation, furtherance in all good things, and preserve them for *Many Years!*

Clergy Health Issues/Assistance:

- We have an alarming number of priests in deanery parishes dealing with health issues, illnesses, and problems (both chronic and acute):
  - Father Ken James Stavrevsky
  - Father Stephen Mack
  - Father Jason Kappanadze
  - Father John Chupeck
  - Father Herman Schick (retired)
  - Father David Edwards (OCA, Canada) serving mission station in Potsdam NY
  - Father Igor Burdikoff (retired)
  - Father Peter Olsen

We ask for your continued prayers for their recovery and health.

These priests are assisted in serving their parishes by the ministry of our deanery deacons, to whom we express our gratitude: Proto-Deacon Andrew Boisvert and Deacon Simeon Peet (Binghamton NY), Proto-Deacon Stephen Sweet and Deacon Sean McNulty (Rochester NY), Deacon Michael Burdikoff (Ballston Lake NY), Deacon Mark Bohush (Elmira NY), Deacon Demetrios Richards (Herkimer NY).

In addition, we are grateful for selfless ministries of Father Timothy Holowatch and Father Nikolai Khalimonov (Endicott NY), Father Michael Speck (Auburn NY), and Father Vladimir Kantor (Syracuse NY), who assisted and continue to help in our deanery parishes when rectors are sick, recovering from surgeries, away on vacations and family emergencies and when our parishes are vacant or between assignments of rectors in Buffalo NY, Rochester NY, Syracuse NY, Lansing NY, Oneonta NY, Cohoes NY, Watervliet NY, Elmira NY, Potsdam NY, Ballston Lake, and Herkimer NY. Thank you Fathers, for your commitment and love, through which hundreds of faithful in our deanery are touched and numerous priests are helped in the time of need.

MEMORY ETERNAL!

- Father John Udics (Saints Peter & Paul Church, Herkimer NY) fell-asleep in the Lord.

Currently, every parish and mission in NY State Deanery is being served by full-time priest or covered on a short or long-term basis as emergencies arise. While being able to fill all the pastoral needs of the deanery with the help of attached priests and deacons, we must begin to recruit younger priests aggressively from seminaries, other dioceses, and jurisdictions.

## Missions:

- Potsdam Mission Station is being served on a weekly basis now. The chapel is located in a wonderful solarium of a founding member of the parish (Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, Chair of the music department at Potsdam University), whose property borders the campus and is fully appointed with iconostasis, icons, altar, and all other needed liturgical implements, as well as space for coffee and fellowship. Attendance varies from 15 to 25 people with number of university and college students coming for the services during the school year. We need to find a mission-minded priest willing to move there and to work to grow this mission in this excellent university town in the northern corner of the deanery, near the Canadian border, where no other parishes exists for many miles.
- Oneonta NY: Saint Innocent Mission has been assigned new priest, Father Vasil Dubee. Under his enthusiastic guidance, the community continues to grow. The church is fully set-up and functioning, including coffee and fellowship hour space; and now that it is separated from the convent of the Holy Myrrhbearers, it has a more welcoming atmosphere for younger families with children, catechumens, educational and social programs, outreach; and much easier accessibility for college students' participation.
- Lansing NY: Holy Apostles Mission is doing great under the leadership of Father James Worthington and has more than doubled in the last year-and-a-half. As the cornerstone and the vision of the mission from its very inception, it is centered on Liturgical Services and robust ministry, education, outreach and service to the utterly broken, the hungry, and the sick; providing for spiritual and fellowship needs of university and college students who are away from their home parishes (Cornell University and Ithaca College), and aspiring to live and to follow a call: to give all for the Gospel of Christ. Regularly scheduled services include Vespers, Morning and Evening Prayers, week-day Divine Liturgies, Moliebens, and others, are celebrated six days a week in addition to Sunday and Feast-day Liturgies. As part of its mission and vision, Holy Apostles is actively engaged in the local community, both civil and ecumenical, as well as in the Fellowship of Orthodox Students on two campuses. The rectory situation (housing for Father James and family) is good and stable, and we are actively pursuing other viable options for the next stages of this mission's growth and expansion.

Our deanery clergy and lay representatives participated monthly in meetings of the Diocesan Council, assisting His Eminence in implementing his vision for our diocese, as well as meetings of the Council of Presbyters, Diocesan Court, and meetings of the Chancellor and Deans with Archbishop Michael to facilitate clergy transfers, filling vacancies, and resolving other administrative, canonical, and legal issues.

Our Diocesan Administration was reorganized by Archbishop Michael with the assistance of the Chancellor, Deans, Diocesan Council, and Council of Presbyters, with an overall goal of strengthening and growing the parishes and outreach ministries in our diocese.

We acknowledge and thank our deanery clergy wives for their quiet support and service, that almost always goes unnoticed and unappreciated. Thank you Matushki! *May our loving Lord reward you bountifully for your faith, love, and sacrifices!*

All parishes, missions, and camps of the New York State Deanery were visited by Archbishop Michael on regular basis and often multiple times. We are grateful for His Eminence's Archpastoral care, love and kindness. *Eis polla, eti Despota!*

//signed//

Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean  
New York State Deanery