

## 2016 ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY CONVENED NOVEMBER 1-2 IN YONKERS, NEW YORK

The annual Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey convened at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Yonkers, New York, on November 1-2, 2016. The first day of the Assembly consisted of the customary reports, decisions, and actions concerning the administration of the Diocese. As has become customary, on the second day of the Assembly, educational workshops were held for both clergy members and laypersons.

The Assembly opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Unmercenary Wonder-Workers, Saints Cosmas and Damian, celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, together with the clergy officers of the Diocese. During the brunch that followed, the annual video presentation, "2016: The Year in Review", was shown, capturing many of the milestones and memories shared within our Diocesan family over the past year.

Highlights of the Diocesan Assembly included

- the Annual Address of the Diocesan Hierarchy to the Assembly, by Archbishop Michael, on the theme, "Defying Apathy" (to be available online in the coming days)
- Election of District Deans:
  - New Jersey Deanery – Archpriest Gary Breton
  - New York City Deanery – Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk
  - New York State Deanery – Archpriest Alexey Karlgut
- Election of Diocesan Council members
  - New Jersey Deanery – Archpriest Stephen Evanina (Clergy), Matushka Mary Buletza Breton (Laity)
  - New York City Deanery – Archpriest Martin Kraus (Clergy), George Elia (Laity)
  - New York State Deanery – Archpriest Peter Olsen (Clergy), Scott Anderson (Laity)
- Election of Diocesan Representatives to the Metropolitan Council
  - Igumen Joseph (Hoffman) (Clergy)
  - James Kornafel (Laity)
- Election of Auditors
  - Igumen Joseph (Hoffman)
  - Deacon David Maliniak
  - William Rentz
- Re-appointments by His Eminence:
  - Diocesan Chancellor: Archpriest Joseph Lickwar
  - Vice-Chancellor: Archpriest David Cowan
  - Secretary: Presbyter Matthew Brown
  - Treasurer: Matushka Mary Buletza Breton
- Annual Reports from the Diocesan Treasurer, Auditors, Offices, Commissions, and Committees
- Approval of the Diocesan Budget for 2017

- Approval of the two Resolutions, “Implementing Proportional Giving As The Method of Financial Stewardship of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey”, and “Adoption of the ‘Statement of the Holy Synod of the OCA on Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs Regarding Marriage”
- Presentation by His Eminence of the primary Diocesan Charity Project for 2017: Helping to Build a Church in Bodružal, Slovakia

At the conclusion of the first day of the Assembly, delegates, observers, and guests were treated to a live musical performance and video vignettes from many of the young people who participated in Music Week at Saint Andrew’s Camp in the summer of 2016. Hospitality was provided by the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Yonkers.

The second day of the gathering, Wednesday, November 2, began with a Molieben service, and continued with presentations for clergy and lay participants. The clergy members heard talks on “The Church and the Law”; “Pastoral Approaches to Pregnancy and Infant Loss”; and “Clergy Peer Learning Groups”. Presentations for the laity were offered by lay leaders from across the Diocese on “A Growing Mission – Holy Apostles in Lansing, NY”; “The Diocesan Commission on Liturgical Music”; “The Diocesan Diaconal Formation Program”; “Healing Ministries and Outreach in the Diocese”; and “Diocesan Youth Programs”.

The date for the 2017 Diocesan Assembly has been set for November 1-2, 2017. The 2017 Assembly will be held at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, in Endicott, New York.

His Eminence thanks Father David and Matushka Tamara Cowan and the faithful of Holy Trinity Church in Yonkers for hosting so hospitably this year's assembly.