

DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Report to the 2018 Diocesan Assembly

Office of Communications
Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky, Director

30 October 2018

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Delegates, and Observers,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I regrettably cannot join you in holy assembly but look forward to greeting you on the second day of your gathering for the clergy and laity symposia.

The blessed life and vitality of our beloved diocese, enthusiastically motivated and guided by Archbishop Michael, continues and is reflected in the many website postings and listings of events and activities. *Thanks to all of you* who have provided inputs in photos and write-ups that make our website interesting and informative; in sharing your “good news” many others may be inspired to do likewise in upholding the good-estate of our diocese.

Please be sure to keep me updated on any additions or changes to clergy contact information, especially email addresses. We count on the accuracy of this information to ensure complete and timely notifications regarding diocesan affairs and news. Contact me at: frski@rochester.rr.com

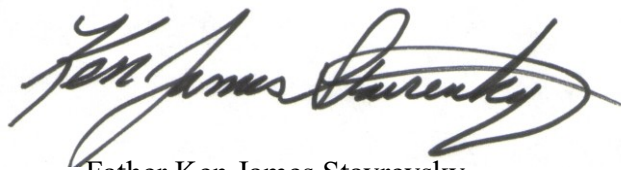
I also thank Danielle Geeza and those who assisted her in producing the excellent video on youth activities throughout the diocese which was featured at the recent All-American Council. I understand you will view the video during the Assembly and am certain you will agree that it is wonderfully done!

Having served as Director of Communications since the enthronement of Archbishop Michael as our Diocesan Hierarch, and being blessed to have represented the New York State Deanery on the Diocesan Council for several years, I am thankful to have witnessed the faith, love, and dedication to the Body of Christ continually exhibited by clergy and laity alike. With the unbridled Archpastoral leadership provided by His Eminence, an abundance of grace-filled good things have been, and are being, accomplished daily. I pray that all of us remember that the ministries and acts of salvation worked in our local parishes are supported mightily through the prayers and service of those in diocesan positions of authority and leadership.

I apologize for any unintentional lapses or neglecting of inputs you have provided me; at times the amount of activity in the diocese becomes overwhelming. To be sure, that is a very good thing! When I was first assigned to our diocese in 2004, it was many years before I fully appreciated the unity of faith and community of love that we could be ... and must be ... as a diocese. There had developed a large degree of parochialism; parishes seemingly doing “their own thing” in isolation. Without question, good work in the Lord’s vineyard was being accomplished! But, the spirit of mutual effort and support was clearly lacking among us, and thus our work was less than fully fruitful. I am thankful to behold that this fragmentation has been overcome thanks in greatest part to the unrelenting leadership of our spiritual shepherd in Christ, Archbishop Michael. By the grace of God, he has brought us all together in a way unexpected due to the length and breadth of our wide-spread diocese. The ridiculous mileage he runs up on his car visiting us, ministering to us, supporting us, nurturing us, and loving us is testimony to the unity he manifests and creates among us. *Eis polla, eti Despota!*

As a final note, I encourage every parish to maintain or create a vibrant and continually updated website. The vast majority of potential visitors, seekers, and relocating Orthodox Christians use the Internet to locate a parish home by searching websites. To be an effective tool for evangelization and outreach, a parish website must be attractive, welcoming, and always current. When I visit a website and information is stale, outdated, or incorrect, I often assume there is a lack of concern (sometimes, I wonder if the church/organization is still “in business”). If, for example, your “latest bulletin” published on-line is from 2007, you may need to do some updating! I am willing to offer help if you are working on an effective website for your parish; you probably have parishioners talented in this area, as well.

With love in Our Lord, your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ken James Stavrevsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Father Ken James Stavrevsky
Archpriest
Director of Communications