

NEW JERSEY DEANERY
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
Report to the 2018 Diocesan Assembly

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Your Eminence, brother clergy, and lay delegates and observers to the Diocesan Assembly,

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Our deanery currently consists of twenty-seven parishes, missions, and institutions. All are served by priests of our deanery, and all contribute greatly to the life of the deanery.

The clergy of the deanery meet regularly throughout the year. Deanery meetings are held at host parishes on a rotating basis. At these meetings, the work of the Church at the deanery level is discussed, and decisions are made that are deemed necessary to accomplish this work in a God-pleasing and effective way. These meetings also serve as opportunities to form and strengthen brotherly bonds between clergy. We are grateful that His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, is a frequent participant in these meetings.

Archbishop Michael provides yet other opportunities to strengthen clergy bonds not only between the priests and deacons, but between their families as well. Twice yearly, His Eminence hosts clergy family get-togethers to help achieve this goal. The clergy and their families truly appreciate and are thankful to His Eminence for these wonderful events.

With great sadness mixed with joy, the deanery clergy and faithful joined family and friends in bidding farewell to the ever-memorable Mitred Archpriest John Nehrebecki, who fell asleep in the Lord this past Great and Holy Saturday. Father John's impact on our deanery is immense and immeasurable. We also experienced the loss of Matushka Barbara Anne (Kuntzevich) Kucynda and Archpriest Joseph Kreshik who reposed on February 16, 2018 and May 28, 2018, respectively. May their memory be eternal!

In pastoral changes, Deacon Samuel Davis was ordained to Holy Priesthood on Saturday, April 21. He continues to serve St. Simon of Cyrene Mission in New Brunswick NJ. Priest Gregory White's status changed from appointed Acting Rector to assigned Rector of Holy Spirit Church in Wantage NJ. Priest Theodore Gregory also became Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Rahway NJ.

A major priestly award was bestowed upon Father Joseph Lickwar when he was elevated to the dignity of Mitred Archpriest by Archbishop Michael. The award was presented in conjunction with the observance of Father Joseph's 55th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

On the Sundays of Great Lent, the Deanery served two separate Mission Vespers services – one in the northern region of the deanery, and one in the southern area. Collections taken at the services resulted in donations to the Diocesan Distinguished Benefactors, and to various deanery needs that presented themselves during the year. The Sunday of Orthodoxy celebrations took place at Saints Peter and Paul

Church in South River NJ. In the morning, His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON (Orthodox Church in America) and His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH (Antiochian Orthodox Church Archdiocese of North America) presided with Archbishop Michael and deanery clergy at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Sunday of Orthodox Vespers was celebrated in the afternoon with many clergy and faithful from our diocese and surrounding Orthodox parishes participating.

Our deanery held the Parish Council Conference and the Church School Teachers/Parents Conference for both deaneries of New Jersey and New York City. Our gratitude is extended to the parish of Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus NJ which hosted both events. The annual Diocesan Clergy Conference was hosted this year by St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappingers Falls NY. This fall, the Diocesan Commission on Liturgical Music conducted a successful workshop led by Dr. David Drillock at Holy Trinity Church in Rahway NJ. The annual recognition dinner for the deanery's Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors was held at Annunciation Church in Brick NJ.

As a deanery, we continue to strive to serve God and witness to His Good News. We pray that He continues to guide us in our efforts, and we give thanks to Him for providing the leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael who shepherds us along the journey to His Heavenly Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Gary Joseph Breton, Dean