



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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Office of the Chancellor

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Christ is in our midst!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, gives us today a summary of the work of the diocese since our last Diocesan Assembly. His commitment is a testimony to being that Good Shepherd spoken about by our Lord; a good shepherd knows his flock and he knows them so well that he calls each by their name.

The administration of the Diocese is entrusted also to the clergy and laity serving as the Chancellor, the Assistant Chancellor, deans, treasurer, Diocesan Council persons, the Office of Communications and the chairs of various departments and committees.

The programs of the Diocese address many needs; however, it is much better to speak of the programs as ministries. For instance, we minister to the elderly, parishes in financial need, and assist financially for vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. We bring our youth together in retreats for altar servers, girls and teens retreats. In the past, our youth had many good years at Six Flags, and this year by their request attended a Broadway Show.

There has been and will continue to be opportunities to particularly address issues in the parish, such as stewardship, outreach, increasing parish awareness of being part of a deanery family, building an appreciation of liturgical life and increasing attendance, clergy enhancement through group study and educational gatherings, and building vocations for priests, deacons and choir directors.

I look forward along with others in our diocesan administration to present to the Assembly the accomplishments, challenges and strengths not just of our past, but for our future. The Orthodox Faith came to America as the Russian Orthodox Mission, and that mission continues today.

As each Hierarchical Divine begins, the deacon receiving the blessing of his bishop says to the bishop, "It is the time for the Lord to act." The Lord acts through His servants and with the blessing comes a great responsibility.

We give thanks to the Lord, who has blessed His Eminence, our clergy and faithful of the God-Saved Diocese of New York and New Jersey with wisdom, courage, joy and love.

In Christ,

Joseph Lickwar

Mitred Priest Joseph Lickwar