

New York State Deanery
Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Diocesan Assembly ~ October 31, 2019
Report of the Dean

Your Eminence Archbishop Michael, Reverend Clergy and Lay Delegates,
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

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

An alarming number of priests in NY State Deanery parishes are dealing with health issues, illnesses, and problems; both chronic and acute: Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Father Jason Kappanadze (retired), Father John Chupeck, Father Herman Schick (retired), Father Igor Burdikoff (retired), and Father Ilya Gotlinsky. We ask for your continued prayers for their recovery and health.

Through the selfless and sacrificial services of Father Timothy Holowatch, Father Vladimir Kantor (Syracuse NY), and Father Nikolay Khalimonov we were able to assist our parishes in Buffalo, Watervliet, Lansing, Elmira Heights, Herkimer, Rochester, Potsdam and Syracuse when priests were ill, moved, or went on vacations. They also assisted in deanery parishes for hierarchical services when Archbishop Michael made Archpastoral visits: Herkimer, Elmira Heights, Syracuse, Rochester, Watervliet, Cohoes, Buffalo, Potsdam, Lansing, Oneonta and others. Thank-you and God bless you -- Father Timm, Father Vladimir and Father Nikolay – for your love and service to our deanery and diocese.

We are grateful for the ministry of our deanery Deacons, to whom we express our gratitude for their faithful work: Rev. Protodeacons Andrew Boisvert (Binghamton), Stephen Sweet (Rochester), and Deacons Michael Burdikoff (Ballston Lake), Mark Bohush (Binghamton), Demetrios Richards (Herkimer), Sean McNulty (Rochester), Paul Federoff (Ballston Spa), Alexander (Scott) Anderson (Syracuse), David Donch (Auburn), Ivan Bazarov (Lansing) and Stephan Karlgut (Bronxville).

Our Deanery clergy and lay representatives participated monthly in a meetings of Diocesan Council, assisting His Eminence in implementing his vision for our diocese, as well as meetings of 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. In spite of challenges, the deanery continues to be very active and focused on the growth of parishes and missions through ministries, outreach, education and evangelization.

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

Our deanery and diocese-wide events, retreats, conferences and workshops were many and well attended by clergy, faithful and youth of our parishes.

- Parish Council Conferences
- Sunday School Teachers and Parents Conference
- Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat at St. Basil's Academy
- Annual Diocesan Girls Retreat at St. Basil's Academy
- Annual Diocesan Choir Directors and Singers Workshop with Department of Liturgical Music
- Annual Lenten Teen Retreat
- Annual Continuing Clergy Education Symposium at St. Tikhon's Seminary

- Annual Deanery Lenten Clergy Retreat with Archbishop Michael in Syracuse
- Annual Diocesan Youth Day
- First New York State Deanery Youth Day at See Breeze Park in Rochester
- Archbishop Michael hosted a Christmas Social get-together for clergy and families of the deanery, in Syracuse. It was a wonderful occasion for fellowship and celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with our Archpastor
- Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs) from throughout the New York State Deanery (over 100) gathered in Buffalo, NY and Watervliet NY, for two Appreciation Dinners, hosted by Archbishop Michael. During the year, DDBs contributed generously to support vital ministries; the work of the Church is being funded as never before! We ask for your continuous generous support of DDB Program
- NY State Deanery Clergy and Families Picnic was held in Lansing, hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Michael. It brought together priests, deacons, Matushki, and children for the purpose of strengthening our bonds of clergy brotherhood in the deanery with each other, and our Archpastor
- Annual Clergy Conference - Priests and deacons from across the farthest reaches of the diocese gathered with Archbishop Michael in Wappinger Falls St. Gregory the Theologian Church, for the 2019 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 of Scriptures, spiritual renewal, and a strengthening of brotherly affection among pastoral ministers
- Youth and clergy from NY State Deanery parishes and missions were actively involved in St. Andrew's and St. Tikhon's Summer Camps (during July and first week of August), as camp directors, counselors, and campers; especially from Rochester, Endicott, Lansing, Buffalo, and few others, in substantial numbers
- Saints Peter & Paul Church in Endicott continued to host the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program every Saturday from January to May, in 2019. Our diocesan students are doing great and are actively involved in service (diaconia) and witness (martyria) in their home parishes, deanery, and the diocese.

In large measure, we owe our successes to selfless sacrifices and financial stewardship of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs), whose monetary offerings make many of those ministries and activities that benefit every one of our parishes possible. Thank-you to all our DDB contributors! May our loving Lord bless you and return your generosity a hundred-fold. If you have not yet joined in the support of this excellent program, please consider doing it as soon as possible. For a listing of the ever-growing number of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors, as well as projects that are funded by them, please check our diocesan website -- nynjoca.org

Our thanks go out to Father Ken James Stavrevsky for his significant efforts to facilitate and improve the communications in our deanery and diocese. His work in maintaining our beautiful diocesan website, is truly appreciated. Thank-you, Father Ken, and may God continue to bless you and your efforts!

We want to offer our gratitude to numerous volunteers in our parishes, deanery, and diocese, whose selfless and often unrecognized labors makes all the difference in the life of our communities. Thank-you, and may God bless you!

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

Ultimately, we thank His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, for his love, humility, service, and for providing an icon of a true servant leader: "Axios! Many years, Vladyko!". **Eis polla, eti Despota!**

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Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean
New York State Deanery