

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY, OCA

October 30, 2018

The clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey met for the annual Diocesan Assembly [DA], at Holy Annunciation Church in Brick, NJ, on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. The proceedings of the assembly began with the singing of “O Heavenly King”.

“Memory Eternal” was intoned by Archpriest JOSEPH LICKWAR (Diocesan Chancellor, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ) for all clergy and matushki of the Diocese who have reposed in the Lord since the last Assembly.

Appointments

Very Reverend JOSEPH LICKWAR announced the following officers appointed for the Diocesan Assembly:

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR, Clergy Chair

Matushka MARY BRETON (Diocesan Treasurer, Holy Annunciation Church, Brick NJ), Lay Chair

Rev. MATTHEW BROWN (Holy Apostles Church, Saddle Brook NJ), Secretariat

Archdeacon MICHAEL SUVAK (Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, New York NY), Secretariat

Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL (SS. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ), Secretariat

V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA (St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls NY),
Credentials Monitor

Rev. IGOR KSENIUK (St. John the Baptist Church, Passaic NJ), Ballot Tabulator

Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ), Ballot Tabulator

Deacon STEPHAN KARLGUT (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY), Ballot Tabulator

Address of the Hierarchy

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR then introduced Archbishop MICHAEL, for whom “*Eis Polla*” was sung, and who presented his address to the Assembly.

Acceptance of Minutes and Report of Credentials Monitor

After the conclusion of his address Archbishop MICHAEL entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the 2017 Diocesan Assembly. **RICHARD MCLAUGHLAN (St Andrew Church, Dix Hills NY) made a motion to accept the 2017 Diocesan Assembly minutes. The motion was seconded by V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA (St. Gregory, Wappingers Falls NY).** Archbishop MICHAEL opened the floor to corrections or questions concerning last year's Assembly minutes. There were no comments. **The motion passed unanimously by vocal affirmation.**

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR then invited V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA, the Credentials Monitor, to give his report. V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA reported that there were 1 Hierarch, 44 clergy, and 22 lay delegates, and 3 observers for a total of 70 in attendance.

Invited Guest Address by Archimandrite Sergius

Archbishop MICHAEL introduced and welcomed Archimandrite SERGIUS, Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan PA. Archimandrite SERGIUS delivered a speech titled "Acquiring the Mind of Christ".

OLD BUSINESS

Report of the Treasurer

Matushka MARY BRETON, Diocesan Treasurer, offered a few words regarding her written report, which included the comments on the billing of background checks and the remittance of delinquent parish assessments prior to 2011. She then invited comments or questions. There were none.

Report of the Diocesan Auditors

Archbishop MICHAEL called forward the Diocesan Auditors to make their presentation. Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) (Transfiguration Church, Pearl River NY) of the Diocesan Audit Committee reported that the members of the Committee had completed their audit and they found the finances of the Diocese in order. He then invited any comments or questions.

A motion was made by RICHARD MCLAUGHLAN to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by V. Rev. SOPHRONY ROYER (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne NJ). The motion passed unanimously.

Floor Open for All Other Reports

The following reports were distributed electronically prior to the DA; some were presented with highlights by the persons reporting:

- *Chancellor's Report by V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR, Diocesan Chancellor*
- *New Jersey Deanery Report by V. Rev. GARY BRETON, Dean (Holy Annunciation, Brick NJ)*

DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

- *New York City Deanery Report by V. Rev. WIACZESLAW KRAWCZUK, Dean (Transfiguration Cathedral, Brooklyn NY)*
- *New York State Deanery Report by V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT, Dean (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY)*
- *Metropolitan Council Representatives' Report by V. Rev. JOHN SHIMCHICK (Holy Cross Church, Medford NJ) and Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL (Saints Peter and Paul, South River NJ)*
- *Office of Communications Report by V. Rev. KEN JAMES STAVREVSKY (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY), Director*
- *Report from the Commission on Liturgical Music by V. Rev. DANIEL SKVIR (Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton NJ), Matushka DOREEN BARTHOLOMEW (Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff NY), and Mrs. CAROL WETMORE (Holy Trinity Church, Randolph NJ)*
- *Report from the Commission on Missions and Evangelism by V. Rev. JONATHAN IVANOFF, Chair (St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley NY)*
- *Department of Youth Ministry Report, submitted by Ms. DANIELLE GEEZA, Chair (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ), read on her behalf by Matushka MARY BRETON*
- *Department of Religious Education Report by Matushka TAMARA COWAN, Chair (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY)*
- *Diocesan Ministry Network by Ms. DIANA PASCA, Director (Holy Cross Church, Medford NJ)*
- *Diocesan Publications Report by V. Rev. JOHN SHIMCHICK, Director*
- *Report on Saint Andrew's Camp submitted by Matushka TAMARA COWAN (Holy Trinity, Yonkers NY), Program Director*
- *Report on PSP Compliance submitted by Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT (Christ the Saviour, Paramus NJ), Director of Compliance*

Following the report on *Jacob's Well*, the Diocesan Magazine, V. Rev. JOHN SHIMCHICK was presented with a Synodal Gramota and was awarded by Archbishop MICHAEL on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon the Order of St. Innocent, Bronze Class. In response, the assembly sang "Axios" in honor of V. Rev. JOHN SHIMCHICK.

Matushka MARY BRETON asked for a motion to accept the reports. A motion was made by Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ) and was seconded by Rev. NICHOLAS GARKLAVS (St. Nicholas Church, Whitestone NY). It passed unanimously by vocal acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by the Orthodox Christian Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF)

John Della Monica, OCCIF President, and Katherine Vitko, Board Member, made a presentation on the work of OCCIF, the new ways it is expanding its services, and how it can greatly benefit parishes of the Diocese.

Adoption of the 2019 Budget

Matushka MARY BRETON reviewed the proposed budget.

V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON asked if there was any intention in adjusting the percentage of parish tithe paid to the diocese.

The V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON made a motion to raise the episcopal salary to \$60,000 and to raise the COLA increases for Chancery staff from 2.9% to 3.25% and to pass the budget as so amended. It was seconded by Mr. RICHARD MCLAUGHLAN. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments by the Archbishop

Archbishop MICHAEL proposed a new initiative, "Operation Pearl River", which will devote 2-3 days to cleaning and painting at Holy Transfiguration Church in Pearl River NY. **V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA made a motion for the Diocese to accept Operation Pearl River. V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Archbishop Michael also proposed a capital campaign to raise funds for Saint Andrew's Camp for constructing a new building to house a new kitchen, dining room, and recreational center for campers. **Matushka MARY BRETON made a motion to start a capital campaign for Saint Andrew's Camp. It was seconded by Mr. RICHARD MCLAUGHLAN. The motion passed unanimously.**

Archbishop MICHAEL presented a Synodal Gramota to Matushka MARY BRETON for her many years of service as Diocesan Treasurer and presented her, on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon, with the Order of St. Innocent, Bronze Class.

Archbishop MICHAEL reappointed V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR as Chancellor, V. Rev. DAVID COWAN (Personal Secretary to the Archbishop; Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY) as Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. JANET VAN DUYN (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY) as Diocesan Treasurer, Mrs. MARIE GIOKAS as Diocesan Council Laity Member from the New York State Deanery, Rev. MATTHEW BROWN as Diocesan Secretary, and V. Rev. MARTIN KRAUS (Holy Trinity, East Meadow NY) as Chaplain for the Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry.

Motion to Close

Matushka MARY BRETON entertained a motion to adjourn the Assembly. **A motion to adjourn the 2018 Diocesan Assembly was made by Matushka MARY BRETON and seconded by Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR.** The Diocesan Assembly adjourned with the singing of "It is Truly Meet" at 5:31 PM.