

# Report of the Diocesan Background Check Administrator

Diocese of New York and New Jersey Diocesan Assembly  
October 31–November 1, 2019  
Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow, New York

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ:

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

From my report to our Diocesan Assembly last year at Holy Annunciation Church in Brick, New Jersey:

*“Our goal is that all parishes in the Diocese be 100% compliant with the new guidelines. We have made significant progress toward this goal, but there is still work to do..”*

We have come close to this goal, set for us by our OCA Central Administration, of 100% compliance regarding clergy serving in the Diocese. The few remaining priests who have not been entered into the system are retired and no longer able to attend services at the parish to which they are attached.

I take this opportunity to remind parish rectors that all employees, church school teachers, youth workers, and adult altar servers should have current background checks. If you have parishioners who are new to these roles, or if you have questions regarding who needs a background check, please contact me.

Moreover, parish rectors should take special care concerning candidates for minor orders. My suggestion is for them to complete the background check process *before* they are recommended to the bishop. In any case, the process must be completed before their tonsure.

The records from Protect My Ministry show that we began using their system for background checks in March of 2017. Since background checks have a three-year lifespan, clergy and lay volunteers should expect a new round beginning in the Spring of 2020.

The background checks continue to yield no serious records, again suggesting that our clergy are using good judgment when choosing leaders and volunteers. May the Lord help us all, especially parish rectors, to fulfill our administrative duties with diligence and faithfulness!

With love in Christ,

Priest Leonid Schmidt  
leonid.schmidt@christthesaviour.org