

# DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY, ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

October 31, 2019

The clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey met for the annual Diocesan Assembly, at Holy Trinity Church in East Meadow NY, on Thursday, October 31, 2019. The proceedings of the assembly began with the singing of "O Heavenly King", followed by "Memory Eternal" intoned by Archpriest JOSEPH LICKWAR (Diocesan Chancellor, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ) for all clergy and matushki 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

Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL (Diocesan Representative to the Metropolitan Council, SS. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ), Lay Chair

V. Rev. DAVID COWAN (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY), Secretariat

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

Mrs. ARLENE KALLAUR (Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow NY), Secretariat

V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA (Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne NJ), Credentials Monitor

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. In addition to his remarks on the state of the Diocese, His Eminence thanked the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in East Meadow for hosting this year's Assembly, particularly the women who prepared the meals.

## Acceptance of Minutes and Report of Credentials Monitor

After giving his address, Archbishop MICHAEL entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the 2018 Diocesan Assembly. **V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA made a motion to accept the 2018 Diocesan Assembly minutes. The motion was seconded by Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) (Transfiguration Church, Pearl River 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, 38 clergy, and 16 lay delegates, and 9 observers for a total of 64 in attendance.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Report of the Treasurer

Mrs. JANET VANDUYN, Diocesan Treasurer, thanked her predecessor, Matushka MARY BRETON, for leaving the finances of the Diocese in exceptionally good order. She thanked Mrs. STEPHANIE BURK, Assistant to the Diocesan Treasurer, for her invaluable assistance. She commented that the parishes are tithing to the Diocese according to budgeted projections and thanked the parishes for their support. Cash balances are healthy and our investments are working well for us. Departments have done very well operating their programs within their budgets. She commented that the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Program (DDB) is the source of all of our ministry programs and asked those assembled to promote the DDB in their parishes. She then invited comments or questions. There were none.

### Report of the Diocesan Auditors

The Clergy Chair 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 (himself and Deacon DAVID MALINIAK), had met on October 28, 2019, reviewed the financial records of the Diocese between 10/1/2018 and 9/30/2019, and completed their audit. They found the finances of the Diocese in order. He then invited any comments or questions.

**A motion was made by Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Mr. PHILIP BENDA (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne NJ). The motion passed unanimously.**

### Invited Presentation by Bill Marianes, Esq.

Archbishop MICHAEL welcomed Mr. BILL MARIANES, who offered a presentation entitled, "Why Are You Here? Living 'The Calling To Which You Have Been Called' as an Engaged Disciple of Jesus Christ". Questions and Answers followed.

The Assembly recessed from 3:30 – 4:00 PM.

## Floor Open for All Other Reports

*The following reports were distributed electronically prior to the Diocesan Assembly; some were supplemented 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 Church, Brick NJ)*
- *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. Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) and Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL*
- *Office of Communications Report by V. Rev. VOLODYMYR ZABLOTSKY (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Buffalo NY), Interim 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. ERIC GEORGE TOSI, Chair (St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls NY)*
- *Department of Youth Ministry Report by Ms. DANIELLE GEEZA, Chair (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ)*
- *Department of Religious Education Report by Matushka TAMARA COWAN, Chair (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY)*
- *Diocesan Publications Report by Rev. MATTHEW BROWN, Editor of Jacob's Well*
- *Report on Saint Andrew's Camp by Matushka TAMARA COWAN, Program Director*
- *Report on PSP Compliance by Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT*
- *Report on "Operation: Pearl River" by Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN)*

**Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL 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 V. Rev. JASON VANSUCH (St. George Church, Buffalo NY). It passed unanimously by vocal acclamation.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Invited Remarks by the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America

Archbishop MICHAEL introduced the new Chancellor of the OCA, Archpriest Dr. ALEXANDER RENTEL, who was confirmed as Chancellor by the Holy Synod in October, 2018. Father RENTEL offered remarks on the state of the OCA. He spoke also on the continuing inquiry of the OCA Canonization Commission into the possible canonization of Archbishop DIMITRI of blessed memory, on relations between the Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches, and on the work presently occurring to update the OCA Website.

## Elections

DISTRICT DEANS. V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR announced the results of the Election of District Deans, votes having been cast by parish Rectors earlier in the day. Archbishop MICHAEL confirmed all three elections. All three of the current Deans were re-elected: Archpriest ALEXEY KARLGUT (Dean, New York State), Archpriest WIACZESLAW KRAWCZUK (Dean, New York City), and Archpriest GARY JOSEPH BRETON (Dean, New Jersey). The office of Dean is held for three years.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL (D.C.) MEMBERS. Father JOSEPH LICKWAR asked for nominations from the floor for the vacant positions on the Diocesan Council.

For Clergy and Lay D.C. Members from the New York State Deanery, the following nominations were submitted by Fr. ALEXEY KARLGUT, Dean, on behalf of the Deanery: V. Rev. PETER OLSEN (Clergy Member, St. Basil the Great Church, Watervliet NY) and Mrs. MARIE GIOKAS (Lay Member, St. Basil the Great Church, Watervliet NY). No other nominations were submitted. Both nominees were elected by acclamation.

For Clergy and Lay D.C. Members from the New York City Deanery, the following nominations were submitted by Fr. WIACZESLAW KRAWCZUK, Dean, on behalf of the Deanery: V. Rev. MARTIN KRAUS (Clergy Member, Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow NY) and Mr. GEORGE ELIA (Lay Member, Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, New York NY). No other nominations were submitted. Both nominees were elected by acclamation.

For Clergy and Lay D.C. Members from the New Jersey Deanery, the following nominations were submitted by Fr. GARY BRETON, Dean, on behalf of the Deanery: V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA (Clergy Member) and Mrs. TRUDY ELLMORE (Lay Member, Holy Cross Church, Medford NJ). No other nominations were submitted. Both nominees were elected by acclamation.

For Diocesan Representatives to the Metropolitan Council, the New York State Deanery nominated Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) (Clergy Representative); and the New Jersey Deanery nominated Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL (Lay Representative). Both nominees were elected by acclamation.

For Diocesan Auditors, the New York State Deanery nominated Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) and the New Jersey Deanery nominated Deacon DAVID MALINIAK and Ms. Elizabeth ANGHEL (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ), to succeed Auditor WILLIAM RENTZ, who fell asleep in the Lord in 2018. All three nominees were elected by acclamation.

## Adoption of the 2020 Budget

Treasurer JAN VANDUYN reviewed the proposed budget line by line. She commented that we should not pass a deficit budget for the second year in a row. She noted that based on the current trend in DDB giving, we anticipate a decrease in DDB for 2019, which has compelled the cuts that are noted in the proposed 2020 budget and the absence of raises for the Chancery staff. There are budget cuts applied to our Ministry Departments as well -- only because we cannot confidently anticipate having the funds to repeat 2019's allocations. Therefore, it is the responsibility of us as representatives of the parishes to encourage increased giving to the Diocese among our fellow parishioners.

**V. Rev. PETER OLSEN moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR seconded the motion.**

In Discussion, Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT moved that the Assembly approve a Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for the chancery staff and officers.

V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON (SS. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ) offered a friendly amendment to the proposed Budget that if the anticipated deficit does not materialize and income exceeds budgeted targets, the Diocesan Council, under the leadership of Abp. MICHAEL, will on a quarterly basis allocate the first fruits of those proceeds to a COLA adjustment for the Archbishop and the Chancery staff.

Lay Chair JAMES KORNAFEL asked V. Rev. PETER OLSEN, who made the initial motion to approve the Budget, whether he would accept this amendment. Father OLSEN responded that according to Robert's Rules of Order, his permission was not needed.

V. Rev. DANIEL DEGYANSKY (St. John Chrysostom Church, Woodside NY) seconded the friendly amendment moved by Fr. GARRETSON.

Discussion: Mr. HERMAN MEIER (St. Vladimir Church, Trenton NJ) suggested that a threshold percentage be set, which, if exceeded in income to the Diocese, then that surplus amount would be allocated to the COLA increase. Father GARRETSON responded that the effect of his amendment would be that the Assembly adopts the budget, with the empowering of the Diocesan Council under the Archbishop's leadership to allocate the first fruits of any increase (as described above) for the COLA raises.

Lay Chair Mr. KORNAFEL called the question.

**The Budget, as amended, was adopted by acclamation.**

## Other New Business

**Saint Andrew's Camp Building Charity Appeal.** Archbishop MICHAEL moved that, for the Diocesan-wide Charity Appeal for 2020, the Assembly approve a fund raising campaign for the planned new building at St. Andrew's Camp. The Camp has variously raised, and received pledges for, half the funds needed for the building. V. Rev. DAVID COWAN seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

**"Operation: Potsdam" Forthcoming.** Archbishop MICHAEL stated that if the Potsdam Mission (St. Olympia) acquires the First Congregational Church building that is being offered to them, then His Eminence will probably call for an "Operation: Potsdam" to complete needed repairs and setup for the parish to move in. The parish has funds in its Building account but needs volunteers to do the work.

## Appointments by the Archbishop

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. JAN VANDUYN as Treasurer, Mrs. STEPHANIE BURK as Assistant to the Treasurer / Financial Secretary, and Rev. MATTHEW BROWN as Diocesan Secretary. He also gratefully acknowledged the service of the Archbishop's Deacon, Rev. Deacon STEPHAN KARLGUT. He thanked the faithful of Holy Trinity Church in East Meadow again for hosting this Assembly and reminded the clergy to sign up for their annual Archpastoral visitations during the course of the Assembly.

## Blessing of Those Newly Appointed and Elected

Archbishop MICHAEL celebrated a Service of Blessing for the newly elected, re-elected, appointed and re-appointed officers of the Diocese, Diocesan Council, and Committees.

## Date and Site of Next Diocesan Assembly

The 2020 Diocesan Assembly will take place Thursday-Friday, November 5-6, at SS. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY. Archbishop MICHAEL also announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America will take place in 2021, in Baltimore, MD.

## Motion to Close

Archbishop MICHAEL entertained a motion to adjourn the Assembly. **A motion to adjourn the 2019 Diocesan Assembly was made by V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR and seconded by Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR.** The Diocesan Assembly adjourned with the singing of "It is Truly Meet" at 5:50 PM.