

Jacob's Well Report

Diocesan Assembly 2022

New this year to our team at Jacob's Well is Amelia Antzoulatos. She is our Assistant Editor and along with Nick Tabor and myself edit submissions, solicit authors, and conduct interviews. She is a parishioner of Saint John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church in Tenagly, NJ and a recent graduate from Fordham in Economics and Theology. Also new to the team is Luke Popadics our Manager of Digital Publications. Luke who grew up in Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Wayne, NJ, and is a parishioner at Holy Protection Cathedral in New York City, will be working to redesign our website, build an online archive of all past Jacob's Well issues, manage the magazine social media accounts, and work to implement an online subscription feature so that individuals and parishes outside our diocese who have been asking about receiving their own paper copies of the magazine may do so.

About 2,500 hard copies of Jacob's Well are distributed with each issue and this past issue saw over 3,500 unique individuals read Jacob's Well in its digital formats. New this year is a blog format to accompany our digital reader. The digital reader, which uses the platform Issuu, allows the reader to experience the magazine in a similar fashion as they would a paper version. The blog format, which is hosted on our website, www.jacobsmag.org, allows for a reading experience that is better suited to smart phones, and more sharable on social media.

The past few years have presented Jacob's Well with a few challenges. The pandemic forced us for a few issues to only release the magazine in digital format, it also made sharing exciting and inspiring stories from events or new ministries in our parishes more difficult as the level of activity in our communities was significantly reduced. Over the past several years we have also had a dramatic rise in the cost of printing which in addition to the recent inflation has in the past 4 years more than doubled the cost of printing the magazine. We have also as a result had to alter the sizing and page count of the magazine in order to compensate for some of those increases. When certain articles have to be cut due to printing constraints we have been able to retain them in our digital versions.

Another challenge which Jacob's Well has faced, but which my team of volunteers has risen to, is my enrollment in doctoral studies, which I began last

year in the Fall of 2021. Some of my duties have had to be redistributed to others on the team, chiefly Nick Tabor our Executive Editor. Nick who is a journalist by trade has more than adequately stepped up to the increased responsibilities of his role.

It is also worth noting that Nick has recently finished writing a book titled *Africatown* which is being published by St Martin Press and will be released in February of 2023. Additionally, our Art Director, Sophie Maliniak was married in October. We wish her and her new husband God's richest blessings!

I want to thank our diocese for its sustained support and ongoing commitment to Jacob's Well. It is through the financial support our parishes give to the diocese and the donors of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors that a publication like this is possible. It is a costly and difficult endeavor to pull off a publication that is printed on quality paper, beautifully designed, meticulously edited, soliciting articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics, with staff and writers who are all volunteer. A special thanks should be made to all of the staff at Jacob's Well, who lend their talent and a significant amount of their time to each issue, as well as the many writers, many who are professionals and take time out of their busy schedules to write for our diocesan publication.

I pray that our future issues will continue to be edifying to all the faithful as well as a helpful resource for ministering to visitors and inquirers.

Fr. Matthew Brown
Editor-in-Chief