

Annual Report for Jacob's Well 2023

The most recent issue which was released at the very beginning of October was titled "Harmony & Discord." Over 2,500 print copies were distributed and the digital version of the magazine was sent out to over 1,500 email recipients. This issue as well as our last one, which was on "Secularism" was published in two digital formats. The first being a digital magazine. This can be viewed through the ISSUU platform and is also embedded on our website and can be read from there as well. The second which is newer is our blog format. The individual articles are posted in a blog format that can be accessed on the magazine website: www.jacobsmag.org. The purpose behind a blog format is that these individual articles are easier to share on social media and easier to read on a smartphone. To that end I encourage all our clergy and laypeople to share articles digitally that they found meaningful.

We added a new member to our team, Samira Kawash, who is a parishioner of Holy Protection Cathedral. Samira is, along with Amelia Anzoulatos, one of our assistant editors. Jacob's Well takes a more hands on approach to editing which helps make our pieces more readable and of higher quality than might otherwise be possible. We are still in need of a volunteer to help oversee the digital side of the ministry. Any interest in this role can be directed to Father Matthew Brown.

The quality of Jacob's Well is highly dependent on having a hardworking and talented team of volunteers who give their particular talents to the diocese. If it wasn't for their sacrifices and service, this magazine would not be possible. If you find a particular issue or article a blessing, send an email to one of our team members and thank them for their service.

Thankfully the cost of paper has stabilized over this past year and we have not seen the steep increase in cost that we have over the past several years. However, it is still important for each parish to make sure that it uses every copy that it gets from the diocese, getting them into the hands of parishioners rather than sitting around in a stack at church. I highly recommend that when your parish receives an issue of Jacob's Well you hand it out when the cross is venerated at the end of the Liturgy. Take a proactive approach to distributing the magazine.

Over the next year it is the goal of Jacob's Well to set up an online marketplace where additional copies of an issue or past issue can be ordered by parishes or individuals. It will also allow parishes and individuals outside of our diocese to subscribe to the magazine, something for which there is considerable interest.

As always, feedback is welcomed. It is helpful to know when a particular piece or theme was impactful. And it is encouraging for the Jacob's Well team to know when their work has blessed someone in a particular way. It not only helps keep the team motivated but

it also lets us know what kind of content was successful which helps guide future issues.

Thank you for your financial support. The donations made to the DDB, and to the financial support of the diocese given by your parish make ministries like Jacob's Well possible. Jacob's Well is a tool to help your parish welcome visitors, connect with inquirers, and to educate our parishioners. It is also a tool for our people to share their faith with friends and family by sharing articles from the magazine with them.

Fr. Mathew Brown