

**NEW YORK STATE DEANERY  
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY  
Report to the 2023 Diocesan Assembly**

**Your Eminence, brother clergy, and lay delegates and observers  
to the Diocesan Assembly:  
Glory be to Jesus Christ!**

**In a last 3 years, by an almost unprecedented display of governmental authority, church attendance has been severely curtailed. Authorities have directed that all gatherings be limited to fewer than 10. For 2 years, most of the Church worship services have ceased altogether. As pandemic eased over the course of the last 3 years, tremendous amount of work was devoted by His Eminence, Diocesan Council, Diocesan Legal Committee, Parish Priests and Parish Councils to restore our normal parish and Diocesan life.**

**During the last year, His Eminence Archbishop Michael, in all his visits to our Deanery parishes, missions and institutions, has powerfully called us rededicate ourselves to ‘The Gospel Vision’. Too often, our vision of the Church is a “self-sustaining one”, not too hot, not too cold, lukewarm, concerned more with externals than with what is contained in the heart of man. But the “business-as-usual’ approach that this implies is inconsistent with the Gospel which calls for a fundamental, self-sacrificing, energetic (dynamic) vision – understanding what it means “to be all things to all men, so that some may be saved”**

**Vladyko also warned us, that even if we re-dedicate ourselves to the Gospel Vision of witness and ministry, there is a danger that sometime after the enthusiasm is rekindled, ardor will have faded, and we instead proceed as we have been, without making the necessary changes to our church life, to address our challenges and to fulfill Christ’s commands to us.**

**It is crucial to uphold the proper teaching of Orthodox ecclesiology, that the sum total of the church exists within each local diocesan church and the unity of the local diocesan churches, expressed through the unity of their shepherds, create what is referred to as the “Territorial Church”, and that the diocese contains within itself, complete and total catholicity: all that is necessary to be the church, and that reflects true and proper Orthodox ecclesiology concerning the nature and prerogatives of the diocesan church. It is all of our responsibility (both clergy and laity) to re-dedicate ourselves to the Gospel Vision of witness and ministry, and to uphold the proper teaching of Orthodox ecclesiology.**

**Currently, every parish, mission and institution in the New York State Deanery is being served by full-time priest or covered on a short and long-term basis, when emergencies arise. While being able to fill all the pastoral needs of New York State Deanery with the help of attached priests and deacons, we must continue our efforts to recruit younger priests aggressively from seminaries, other dioceses, and jurisdictions.**

**Our Deanery clergy and lay representatives participated monthly in a meeting of Diocesan Council, assisting His Eminence in implementing his vision for our diocese, as well as meetings of Council of Presbyters, Diocesan Court, and meetings of the Chancellors and Deans with Archbishop Michael, to facilitate clergy transfers, filling vacancies, and resolving other administrative, canonical, and legal issues. In spite of challenges of great geographic distances of our parishes, the deanery continues to be very active and focused on the growth of parishes and missions through ministries, outreach, education and evangelization.**

**Following Deanery events took place during the last year:**

- **Parish Council Conferences held in Endicott and Ballston Spa, with over 80 participants**
- **Clergy and lay representative participated in Diocesan Evangelism and Mission School**
- **Number of priests from NY State Deanery attended Clergy Conference, Mental Health First Aid Training on August 31 – September 1, 2023 in Wappingers Falls, NY.**
- **Sunday School Teachers and Parents Conference**
- **Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat in Wayne NJ**
- **Annual Diocesan Choir Directors and Singers Workshop with Department of Liturgical Music**
- **Annual Lenten Teen Retreat**
- **Annual Continuing Clergy Education Symposium at St. Tikhon's Seminary**
- **Annual Deanery Lenten Clergy Retreat with Archbishop Michael in Syracuse**
- **Annual Diocesan Youth Day**
- **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs) from throughout the New York State Deanery gathered in Rochester, NY and Watervliet NY, for two Appreciation Dinners, hosted by Archbishop Michael. During the year, DDBs contributed generously to support vital ministries; the work of the Church is being funded as never before! We ask for your continuous generous support of DDB Program**
- **NY State Deanery Clergy and Families Picnic was held in Lansing, hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Michael. It brought together priests, deacons, matushki, and**

children for the purpose of strengthening our bonds of clergy brotherhood in the deanery with each other, and our Archpastor

- **Annual Clergy Conference - Priests and deacons from across the farthest reaches of the diocese gathered with Archbishop Michael in Wappinger Falls St. Gregory the Theologian Church, for the 2023 Diocesan Clergy Conference. Priests and deacons enjoyed and benefited from fellowship in prayer, unity, spiritual renewal, and a strengthening of brotherly affection among pastoral ministers**

- **Youth and clergy from NY State Deanery parishes and missions were actively involved in St. Andrew's Summer Camp (during July and first week of August), as camp directors, counselors, and campers; especially from Elmira, Rochester, Herkimer, Endicott, Lansing, Buffalo, and few others, in substantial numbers**

**We are grateful for the ministry of our deanery Deacons, to whom we express our gratitude for their faithful work: Rev. Protodeacon Andrew Boisvert (Binghamton) and Deacons Michael Burdikoff (Ballston Lake), Mark Bohush (Endicott/Bronxville), Demetrios Richards (Herkimer), Sean McNulty (Rochester), Alexander (Scott) Anderson (Syracuse), David Donch (Auburn), Michael Speck (Auburn), Ivan Bazarov (Lansing), Jason Gagnon (Watervliet), Shawn Karney (Elmira) and Stephan Karlgut (Bronxville).**

**We want to offer our gratitude to numerous volunteers in our parishes, deanery, and diocese, whose selfless and often unrecognized labors makes all the difference in the life of our communities. Thank-you, and may God bless you!**

**We want to acknowledge and thank our deanery clergy wives for their quiet support and service, that almost always goes unnoticed and unappreciated. Thank you Matushki and may our loving Lord reward you bountifully for your faith, love, and sacrifices!**

**Ultimately, we thank His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, for his love, humility, service, and for providing an icon of a true servant leader, during these challenging times:**

**“Axios! Many years, Vladyko!”. Eis polla, eti Despota!**

**//signed//**

**Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean**

**New York State Deanery**