

**NEW YORK STATE DEANERY
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
Report to the 2024 Diocesan Assembly**

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

The past year was very active and positive in the life of the New York State Deanery, thanks to the vision and Archpastoral ministry of Archbishop Michael and outstanding work, cooperation, goodwill, and sacrifices of our priests, deacons, and laity. In spite of challenges, the deanery continues to be very active and focused on the growth of parishes and missions through ministries, outreach, education and evangelization.

All the parishes, missions and camps of the New York State Deanery were visited by His Eminence, on regular basis and often multiple times, throughout this year.

It is clearly evident that the good order, mutual love, trust and care; outreach and ministries; mission planting and turn-around of older parishes; youth work and elder care; pastoral care and assistance; theological and continuous education of clergy, Conferences for Sunday school teachers, Parish Councils, choir directors and singers, have become the largest part of our deanery and diocesan life, under tireless stewardship of Archbishop Michael.

In large measure, we owe our successes to selfless sacrifices and financial stewardship of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs), whose monetary offerings make many of those ministries and activities that benefit every one of our parishes and missions possible. Thank-you to all our DDB contributors! May our loving Lord bless you and return your generosity a hundred-fold. If you have not yet joined in the support of this excellent program, please consider doing it as soon as possible. For a listing of the ever-growing number of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors, as well as projects that are funded by them, please check our diocesan website -- nynjoca.org -- which is beautifully maintained and regularly updated thanks to our own, Father Volodimir Zablotskyy.

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.

Following Deanery events took place during the last year:

- **Parish Council Conferences held in Endicott and Ballston Spa, with over 60 participants**
- **Clergy and lay representative participated in Diocesan Evangelism School**
- **Number of priests from NY State Deanery attended Clergy Conference on September 4 – September 6, 2024 in Wappingers Falls, NY.**
- **Sunday School Teachers and Parents Conference**
- **Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat in Endicott NY**
- **Deanery Choir Directors and Singers Workshop held in Syracuse**
- **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 2024 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, Lansing, Buffalo, and few others, in substantial numbers**

Pastoral Changes:

Father Micah Breland was assigned Acting Rector of Saint Innocent Mission in Oneonta NY and moved there with Matushka Rachel and their 3 children - Simeon (5), Ephraim (3) and Anastasia (1). God grant them health, salvation, furtherance in all good things, and preserve them for Many Years!

Father Gregory Fedorchak was assigned Rector of Saint Olymphia Mission in Potsdam NY; we welcome him into our deanery and the diocese, and wish him and Matushka Krista (and their newly born son Christopher) every success as they begin their service in the parish. God grant them health, salvation, furtherance in all good things, and preserve them for Many Years!

In addition, we are grateful for selfless ministries of Father Nikolai Khalimonov (Endicott NY), Father Paul Federoff (Ballston Spa NY), Father Vladimir Kantor (Syracuse NY), Father Peter Irfan (Buffalo NY), Father Denis Hendershot (Elmira NY), Father Myron Ohryon (Apalachin NY), Father Igor Burdikoff (Ballston Spa NY) who assisted and continue to help in our deanery parishes when rectors are sick, recovering from surgeries, away on vacations and family emergencies and when our parishes are vacant or between assignments of rectors. They assisted in Buffalo NY, Binghamton NY, Rochester NY, Syracuse NY, Lansing NY, Oneonta NY, Cohoes NY, Watervliet NY, Elmira NY, Potsdam NY, Ballston Lake NY and Herkimer NY. Thank you, Fathers, for your commitment and love, through which hundreds of faithful in our deanery are touched and numerous priests are helped in the time of need.

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 (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 past decade and a half:

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

//signed//

Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean

New York State Deanery