

**Report of the Diocesan Assembly  
November 9, 2010  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Report of the Chancellor – Archbishop Joseph Lickwar**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Your Grace, Archpriests, Priests, Deacons and Faithful,

By the Grace of God we come to the end of the year 2010: a year of joy and hope.

It has been especially important for me that we have held together as a diocese amidst the difficulties that assailed us.

This report is a summary of the events set in a chronological order for the years 2009 and 2010.

Attached are the minutes of the 2008 Assembly of the Diocese of Washington and New York and the 2009 Extraordinary Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The regular Diocesan Assembly for the year 2009 was postponed with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH in light of the transition the diocese was undergoing.

## **2009**

In January 2009 the **Diocesan Center** was prepared for occupancy by His Beatitude. The interior and exterior were repaired and painted, the floors were refinished, and a water tank and furnace were installed. Three antique furniture items of the late Archbishop PETER were sold to Clarke Auction Gallery, Inc., Larchmont, NY.

The February 2009 meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Washington and New York reviewed an issue raised by Father Sophrony Royer and Robert Czech of Saint John the Baptist Parish, Passaic, NJ of a **supposed discrepancy** between the Diocesan assessments paid to the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), or Central Administration Assessment (CAA) for the years 2006-2008. Following the evaluation of the issue at a meeting of Archbishop Alexander Garklavs, Archbishop Dennis Swencki, Archbishop Eric Tosi, Archbishop Joseph Lickwar, Archbishop Sophrony Royer and Robert Czech, no discrepancy was found.

In March 2009 a financial report was sent by the diocesan treasurer to the Special Investigative Committee, chaired by His Eminence, Archbishop JOB, of blessed memory, on behalf of the **Diocese of Washington and New York**. This was in compliance with the “Long-Term Recommendations” of the Special Investigative Committee and concerning materials for an external audit of 2008 financials.

In addition the financial records for the years prior to 2000-2006 of the former **Diocese of New York and New Jersey** were collected and evaluated by the treasurer and controller of the OCA upon the request of the diocese to comply with the recommendation of SIC. These were found to be inadequate for evaluation.

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On June 30, 2009 the Diocesan Council approved the following: financial assistance of \$4,400 for a new mission in Alexandria, VA; \$5,700 for St. Andrew's Camp, and \$4,000 for a study to develop an Orthodox Christian School in Princeton.

On July 1, 2009, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America **reestablished, as separate dioceses**, the Diocese of Washington, and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. Declaring the Diocese of New York and New Jersey vacant, the hierarchs appointed His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, to serve as . The Holy Synod of Bishops also decided that His Beatitude's title, effective immediately, is "Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada."

An **Extraordinary Assembly**, convened on August 31, 2009 at Holy Assumption Church, Clifton, moved to forward the names of Archpriest Michael Dahulich and Archpriest David Mahaffey to the Holy Synod for consideration, approval, and canonical election.

On September 8, 2009, in light of the vacancy in the office of abbot at Holy Cross Monastery, Niagara Falls, NY, Metropolitan JONAH, appointed **Igumen Joseph (Hoffman) as superior** of Holy Cross Monastery. Igumen Joseph was to be accompanied by Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Archpriest Alexy Karlgut and Lawrence Tosi to take possession of the monastery. Archimandrite Nicholas Iuhos was informed of this procedure, and his legal consul informed the diocese that our delegation would be considered as trespassers and would be subject to arrest.

Bishop-Elect Michael, Archpriest Joseph Lickwar and Lawrence Tosi met with Jeffrey Baum, Esq of Jeffrey I. Baum & Associates of Garden City, NY on December 14, 2009 to discuss Holy Cross Monastery. The mutual conclusion was that pursuing this issue could be complicated and costly.

## **2010**

With the blessing of His Beatitude and in consultation with the Diocesan Council the **2010 Diocesan Budget and Audit of 2009** conducted by the Diocesan Auditors was approved by proxy vote as follows: the budget approved with 62 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstentions, and the audit approved with 61 in favor, 3 opposed and 4 abstentions.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, **appointed the Bishop-Elect, Hieromonk Michael (Dahulich) as Administrator** of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey effective January 1, 2010. As Administrator of the diocese, he convened monthly the Diocesan Council, signed letters of approval of Parish Council members, visited Diocesan parishes and deaneries, reviewed pastoral and parish issues, and consulted with His Beatitude on issues requiring his oversight. His Beatitude remained the locum tenens of the diocese until May 8, 2010.

The **Consecration of Bishop-Elect, Hieromonk Michael (Dahulich)** was on May 7, 8 and 9. Great Vespers and the Nomination and Proclamation were on Friday, May 7th, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, the Profession of Faith, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Consecration was on Saturday, May 8th at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Enthronement was on Sunday, May 9th at the Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral. A

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commemorative banquet was on Saturday and a reception followed on Sunday at the cathedral. A committee was established to plan the details. The commemorative publication was chaired by Archpriest Samuel Kedala; the banquet seating was chaired by Matushka Mariam Vernak and Matushka Shirley Lickwar. The books for the Great Vespers, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Commemorative Program were provided by *Cat Print*, Rochester, NY.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, vacated the Diocesan Center in April 2010, and His Grace, **Bishop MICHAEL assumed residence** in June 2010. At that time furnishings were purchased for the office, four bedrooms, and the living room. Space at the center is being created for use as a chapel.

**As his official act as ruling hierarch of the diocese**, His Grace appointed in July 2010 the following: as Diocesan Chancellor, Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Dean, New York State Deanery - Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, Dean, New Jersey Deanery - Archpriest Samuel Kedala and Dean, New York City Deanery - Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk.

Following the direction of the holy Apostle Paul, that “*all things be done decently and in good order*” in the Church, and consistent with the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America which prescribes the appointment of a **Spiritual Court** in each diocese, His Grace re-constituted a **Spiritual Court** for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey with the following appointments to court membership: Clergy - Diocesan Chancellor (Archpriest Joseph Lickwar), Dean, New York State Deanery (Archpriest Alexey Karlgut), Dean, New Jersey Deanery (Archpriest Samuel Kedala), Dean, New York City Deanery (Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk) and Laity - Scott Anderson and George Elia.

In agreement with the Church's teaching on conciliarity handed down to us by Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop MICHAEL established a **Diocesan Council of Presbyters** to advise him on matters pertaining to the life, growth, and development of the Diocese. The following clergy (comprised of the Chancellor, the Deans, two priests from each deanery, and two retired priests; for an initial term of one year renewable at that time) were appointed to the Diocesan Council of Presbyters: Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk, Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky (NYS Deanery), Archpriest Igor Burdikoff (NYS Deanery), Igumen Christopher Calin (NYC Deanery), Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff (NYC Deanery), Archpriest Gary Breton (NJ Deanery), Priest Steven Evanina (NJ Deanery), Archpriest John Nehrebecki (Retired), and Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky (Retired).

**The Spiritual Court of the Diocese** was convened on July 19, 2010, under the presidency of His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, and made its determination regarding **(the suspended) Archimandrite Nicholas (Iuhos)** and submitted it to the Holy Synod of Bishops.

In order to bring to resolution the **Holy Cross Monastery** (Niagara Falls NY) and to protect the diocese, the following motion was made by the Chancellor at the Meeting of the Diocesan Council: “*In an attempt to remove any future liability from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey authorizes Mr. Lawrence Tosi, Esq. to contact the attorney of Archimandrite Nicholas*”

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*(Iuhos), offering to sell the church building and property of the Holy Cross Monastery for a nominal fee to be later determined by the Diocesan Council.”* Archpriest Alexey Karlgut seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

In a concerted effort to facilitate, improve, and expand communications at all diocesan levels (bishop, deaneries, clergy, and parishes), His Grace established the position of the **Diocesan Director of Communications** and appointed Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky to serve in this role.

**The Koumentakis vs. Diocese of Washington and New York** lawsuit for “wrongful employment termination” of the plaintiff was settled. An invoice for \$27,380.06 was presented to the diocese by the legal firm of Brault Graham, LLC, Rockville, MD.

**A new mission, Holy Apostles**, was established in Lansing/Ithaca, NY with the first Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, the Dean of New York State, has written about the mission in his report.

**Diaconal Program** was opened with a retreat conducted by Bishop MICHAEL on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY is the site for the program this year.

In order to grow the Church and in consultation with the Deans and Presbyters’ Council of the diocese, a **Clergy Conference** for priests of the diocese and **Open Forums** for clergy and laity have been set to take place within each deanery. The Clergy Conference was held on August 31 and September 1 at Holy Assumption Church, Clifton. The Open Forums were as follows: New York State Deanery - October 21, 2010, Cohoes, NY, New Jersey Deanery - September 14, 2010, South River, NJ and New York City Deanery October 10, 2010, Woodside, NY.

The Diocesan Clergy Conference of August 31st & September 1st unanimously reaffirmed its faithfulness to the Autocephaly granted to the Orthodox Church in America.