

***** REVISED (18 AUGUST) *****

ANNUAL DIOCESAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

2-3 SEPTEMBER 2015

Assumption of the Virgin Church ~ Clifton NJ

Wednesday, September 2

6:00 PM Vespers

6:45 PM Dinner

7:30 PM **First Presentation: "Suffering and the Spiritual Struggle:**

The Life and Ministry of the Parish Priest"

Presented by Harry Boosalis (Th.D., Professor of Dogmatic Theology, Saint Tikhon's Seminary). This presentation is in two parts. The first part deals with the various levels of suffering encountered within one's pastoral ministry. Also addressed is the issue of how the priest is called to deal and respond to his own personal suffering, as well as the suffering of his own family. The second part discusses the battle against intrusive thoughts (logismoi) and the spiritual struggle against despondency, depression and despair.

Thursday, September 3

9:00 AM Mollieben

9:30 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM **Second Presentation: "Stewards of Children"**

Presented by Cindy Heise (LMSW, Coordinator, Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations, Orthodox Church in America). "Stewards of Children" is a proactive answer to child sexual abuse prevention. It is a training program that incorporates a combination of survivor stories, expert advice, and practical guidance. Stewards is an evidence-informed prevention solution that shows how to implement effective prevention policies, recognize the signs of sexual abuse in children, and react responsibly if abuse occurs.

1:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM **Third Presentation: "God's Gift of Freedom: A Pastoral Perspective"**

Presented by Harry Boosalis, Th.D. This presentation deals with the role of freedom in Orthodox spiritual life and its significance for our personal lives. This two-part lecture is presented as a review of basic patristic teachings on human nature, also known as Orthodox Anthropology. A pastoral perspective of concepts and terms such as image and likeness, pre-fallen and fallen human nature, as well as passions and virtues, will also be discussed.

5:00 PM Informal Dinner with Archbishop Michael

Contact the Chancellor, Father Joseph Lickwar, at josephlickwar@gmail.com as soon as possible to inform him of your attendance; please indicate the portions of the conference you will attend.