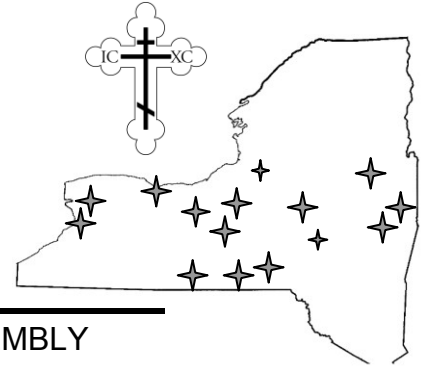


New York State Deanery
Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Orthodox Church in America



REPORT TO THE 2013 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Your Grace and Delegates to the Assembly,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

1 October 2013

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, that have been nearly non-existent in past decades, have been restored and became the largest part of our diocesan life, under stewardship of Bishop Michael.

Diocesan Administration reorganized by Bishop Michael, with the assistance of Chancellor, Deans, Diocesan Council, and Council of Presbyters are functioning efficiently, with an overall goal of strengthening and growing the parishes and outreach ministries in our diocese. An unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency have been instituted through the vision of His Grace and tireless efforts of Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, CPA - our Diocesan Treasurer; and our diocesan financial reports are continually reviewed and publicly posted on our diocesan website.

Our Deanery clergy and lay representatives participated monthly in a meetings of Diocesan Council, assisting His Grace in implementing his vision for our diocese, as well as meetings of Council of Presbyters, Diocesan Court, and meetings of the Chancellor and Deans with Bishop Michael, to facilitate clergy transfers, filling vacancies, and resolving other administrative, canonical, and legal issues.

With administrative aspects of diocesan life firmly planted and efficiently functioning, we are focusing on spiritual and physical growth of our parishes and missions. Our parishes are local communities of Orthodox believers knit together by a common life-giving faith, concerned with, and working for, people's salvation. Throughout our deanery and diocese we witness countless examples of active parish life, grounded in a zeal for salvation that bears the fruit of mutual love and service.

To be specific: How can we best educate and involve our youth in a living faith? By what means can we stir up and renew all the faithful in their Christian life? What are the most effective ways of giving an Orthodox witness in our society? How can we find and train the leaders so desperately needed? How can we expand the work of our diocese in missionary outreach and good works? How we can communicate even more effectively with one another, and those around us?

Past year was very active and positive in a life of New York State deanery, thanks to the vision and Archpastoral ministry of Bishop Michael, and an outstanding work, cooperation, good will, and sacrifices of our priests, deacons, and laity.

This partial list of ministries by our deanery and diocese provides a clear evidence of becoming and being Alive in Christ!

- NYS Deanery Youth and Family Conference at Great Wolf Lodge, PA
- Great Blessing of Waters in Cayuga Lake hosted by Holy Apostles Mission in Lansing
- NYS Deanery DDB Appreciation Dinner
- Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat at St. Basil's Academy
- NYS Deanery MTG and Lenten Retreat with Continues Clergy Education Program, in Syracuse
- Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat
- NYS Deanery Parish Council Conference on Church Growth and Evangelism, in Endicott
- NYS Deanery Picnic with Bishop Michael in Lansing
- NYS Deanery Choir Conference
- Our clergy and youth participated in St. Andrew's Summer Camp with Bishop Michael
- Diocesan Youth Day with Bishop Michael in summer
- NYS Deanery Sunday School Teachers Conference in Watervliet
- Diocesan Clergy Conference in Clifton on Ministering to the Elderly in our parishes
- Diocesan Choir Appreciation Day
- "Operation Princeton" - Mission Church Building
- Upcoming Evangelism Conference on Oct. 19 at Clifton
- Upcoming training for clergy on "Sexual Misconduct" at our Diocesan Assembly

As part of our deanery and SS. Peter and Paul in Endicott, we continue to host the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program every Saturday throughout the academic year. Our diocesan students are doing great and are actively involved in service (diaconia) and witness (martiria) in their home parishes, deaneries, and the diocese.

We had a pleasure and a privilege to witness an establishment of another new Mission in our deanery this year! May God bless and prosper their ministry and growth for Many Years!

POTSDAM NY: Newly Established Mission Parish - 09/14/13

The newly-formed Orthodox Christian Mission in Potsdam NY had the honor, pleasure and blessing of having His Grace, Bishop Michael, visit on 30 August and 1 September, accompanied by Subdeacon Nilus Klingel. The Watertown Daily Times/Courier Observer featured Bishop Michael's visit. The Mission is on the "look-out" for students attending SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton, or other Orthodox moving to the area. Contact Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis at suchyjr@potSDam.edu

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 possible. To this end, we should encourage as great a participation in VOF (Vision of Our Future) as possible among our parishioners, organizations, and parishes, since it identifies and supports three crucial areas that will make the greatest impact on the future of our parishes, deanery, and the diocese: Support and planting of Missions, Support of Diocesan seminarians - future priests; and Support and revitalization of older, struggling parishes. We thank you DDBs from the bottom of our heart!

We extend our congratulations and welcome to our deanery clergy family the newly ordained Deacons who were ordained by Bishop Michael upon their completion of Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program:

Fr. Deacon Demitrios Richards - assigned to serve at SS. Peter and Paul in Herkimer
Fr. Deacon Mark Hoepflinger - assigned to serve at St. George in Buffalo

We also welcome Fr. Jason Vansuch with his family who was assigned to serve at St. George in Buffalo by His Grace, to our deanery.

May God bless your service to our deanery and diocese, and grant you many years!

Through selfless and sacrificial service of Fr. Timm Holowatch and Fr. John Bohush we were able to assist our parishes in Buffalo, Lansing, Herkimer, and Syracuse, when priests became sick, moved, or went on vacations, as well as assisted in many deanery parishes with Hierarchical services, when Bishop Michael came for Archpastoral visits - Herkimer, Elmira, Rochester, Watervliet, Cohoes, Lansing, and others. Thank you and God bless you for your love and service to our deanery, and diocese.

Our thanks go to Fr. Ken Stavrevsky for his hard work to improve the communications in our deanery and for maintaining our beautiful diocesan website, probably the best in OCA! Thank you Fr. Ken and may God continue to bless you and your efforts!

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! May God bless and renew you! You are working out your salvation by reaching out to contribute your time and talents in the service to God and your church. Volunteer work is a way in which we as the faithful (both clergy and lay) share in the saving ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

We ask for your continued prayers for our ailing clergy, matushki, and laity, by names, as they are provided to all of us by His Grace, through Fr. Ken's emails, to all the parishes. 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! Please also remember in your prayers all of our departed deanery clergy, especially, the newly departed Archpriest Daniel Pavelchak. Memory Eternal!

Ultimately we thank His Grace Bishop Michael for his love, humility, and sacrificial service; who as a sharer in the apostolic succession, as a guarantor of unity in the Orthodox Faith handed to us from the Apostles, and as high priest, presides on behalf of the worshipping community of our parishes, deanery and diocese. Thank you and Many Years Vladyko!

//signed//
Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean
New York State Deanery