Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

RELEASE NUMBER 2015.5.1

DIOCESAN CLERGY CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2015

On September 2-3, 2015, over fifty clergy members from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey gathered for the annual Diocesan Clergy Conference, at Holy Assumption Church in Clifton, New Jersey. Convened by His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, the two-day event served to strengthen the bonds of fellowship among the priests and deacons assembled in Clifton.

The gathering also provided spiritual inspiration and practical instruction. Professor Harry Boosalis from St. Tikhon's Seminary spoke on the themes, 'Suffering and the Spiritual Struggle: The Life and Ministry of the Parish Priest," and "God's Gift of Freedom: A Pastoral Perspective". Also speaking was Ms. Cindy Heise, Coordinator of the OCA's Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations, who led the clergy in the OCA-endorsed abuse-prevention training program, "Stewards of Children."

The lectures and discussions were rooted in liturgical worship, with daily services celebrated and sung by Archbishop Michael and diocesan clergy. The Conference concluded with an informal dinner at a local restaurant, where the clergy members shared open discussion and enjoyed fellowship with their Archpastor and with one another before returning to their parishes.

Archbishop Michael expresses his gratitude to Archpriest Terence Baz and the faithful of Holy Assumption Church for their kindness in hosting the Clergy Conference, and to Professor Boosalis and Ms. Heise for offering their wisdom and insight to the benefit of the Diocesan clergy and faithful parishioners. His Eminence thanks all the priests and deacons of the Diocese who attended the Conference -- both to fulfill their requirements of mandatory clergy continuing education and to strengthen the brotherhood that exists among them. ***"I see in events such as this gathering an incarnation of the words of the king and prophet and psalmist David, 'How good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity'"*** (Psalm 132:1, LXX).

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