

Report to the Diocesan Assembly - November 1, 2017
OCA Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid (CSHA)
Diana Pasca, Member

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Lay Delegates and Observers,

With the Blessing and encouragement of His Eminence Archbishop Michael, I was appointed to be the Departments' representative to the Diocesan Ministry Network in 2015. The Department has many resources that can assist parishes, and may be unknown to some. The Network is made up of representatives from each OCA diocese in an initiative to strengthen parish ministries and charitable outreach programs throughout the Church. The goal of the Diocesan Ministry Network is to assist in the development of parish ministries. We would like to identify the particular kinds of ministry groups that exist within our Diocesan parishes, and create a sharing-of-ideas network of groups and individuals.

This year I was asked to be part of the exciting project growing in the diocese known as St. Basil's House spearheaded by Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow parish in Princeton, NJ, with the blessing of Archbishop Michael. This mission/project will establish a house of hospitality in a materially impoverished neighborhood of Trenton, NJ while providing opportunities for Eastern Christians to serve Jesus Christ in the relationships built with those in need. Following the Gospel teachings, Matthew 25, and the exhortations of St. Basil regarding greed, ownership of possessions, and what our actions on behalf of the poor must be, the group is working diligently to achieve a truly remarkable opportunity, one that hopefully other members of the diocese will join in supporting.

Our diocesan website demonstrates the many wonderful ministries that parishes are undertaking in service to the Lord. I would like to suggest that new articles that appear on the OCA website under Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid Department, Parish Ministries Resources, could be added to the diocesan website as another way of communicating the good and beneficial information available to both individuals and parishes. I look forward to hearing what your parish is working on and assist you. Please contact me with questions, ideas or resources you want to share with other parishes: diana.pasca@comcast.net or 609-953-4705. I look forward to hearing from you.

With Love in Christ,

Diana Pasca