

## NEW YORK STATE DEANERY REPORT

Your Eminence Archbishop Michael, Reverend Clergy and Lay Delegates,

***Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!***

I want to begin this Annual Report by thanking our outgoing Diocesan Treasurer - Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, CPA - for her tireless efforts of many years of faithful and dedicated service to our parishes, deaneries, diocese, all the clergy, parish councils, and Archbishop Michael. Her contributions ... to regularizing and stabilizing our diocesan financial operations, reporting, transparency, and guiding our diocese in transition from “per capita” assessments to a PROPORTIONAL GIVING AS THE METHOD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY ... are incalculable. Change is always difficult! Guiding the Diocesan Council, Clergy, Parishes, Deaneries and ultimately 2016 Diocesan Assembly through understanding and passage of the RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY was a Herculean (yet necessary) task! It is a great testament to Matushka Mary’s professionalism and clarity of Christian Stewardship, as is evident in the approved resolution:

“It is hereby resolved that the Diocese of New York and New Jersey will exercise its stewardship of the Church, both the Diocese and the Orthodox Church in America as a whole, through a proportional manner of giving. This means that each parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey shall forward annually a percentage of its yearly parish income, which percentage shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly or the Diocesan Council and confirmed by the Diocesan Bishop. This percentage shall exclude restricted, charity, pass-through and designated funds and shall be remitted proportionally on a monthly basis to the Treasurer of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The Treasurer will then distribute the Diocese’s fair share of collected funds to the Chancery Office in Syosset for use for the entire Orthodox Church in America.”

Dear Matushka Mary, thank you and may God grant you Many Years!

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!

Currently, every parish, mission and institution in the New York State Deanery is being served by full-time priest or covered on a short and long-term basis, when emergencies arise. While being able to fill all the pastoral needs of New York State Deanery with the help of attached priests and deacons, we must continue our efforts to recruit younger priests aggressively from seminaries, other dioceses, and jurisdictions.

We welcome Fr. Peter Irfan who was assigned by Archbishop Michael to St. Olympia Mission in Potsdam. May God bless Fr. Peter and Matushka Mary as they begin this next phase of their public ministry, in our Deanery and Diocese.

Through the selfless and sacrificial services of Father Timothy Holowatch and Father Nikolay Khalimonov we were able to assist our parishes in Buffalo, Watervliet, Lansing, Elmira Heights, Herkimer, Rochester, Potsdam and Syracuse when priests were ill, moved, or went on vacations. They also assisted in deanery parishes for hierarchical services when Archbishop Michael made Archpastoral visits: Herkimer, Elmira Heights, Syracuse, Rochester, Watervliet, Cohoes, Lansing,

Oneonta and others. Thank-you and God bless you -- Father Timm and Father Nikolay – for your love and service to our deanery and diocese.

Our thanks go out to Father Ken James Stavrevsky for his significant efforts to facilitate and improve the communications in our deanery and diocese. His work in maintaining our beautiful diocesan website, is truly appreciated. Thank-you, Father Ken, and may God continue to bless you and your efforts!

Our Deanery clergy and lay representatives participated monthly in meetings of Diocesan Council, assisting His Eminence 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 Archbishop Michael, to facilitate clergy transfers, filling vacancies, and resolving other administrative, canonical, and legal issues.

Our deanery and diocese-wide events, retreats, conferences and workshops were many and well attended by clergy, faithful and youth of our parishes.

- Parish Council Conferences
- Sunday School Teachers and Parents Conference
- Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat at St. Basil's Academy
- Annual Diocesan Girls Retreat at St. Basil's Academy
- Annual Diocesan Choir Directors and Singers Workshop with Department of Liturgical Music
- Annual Lenten Teen Retreat
- Annual Continuing Clergy Education Symposium at St. Tikhon's Seminary
- Annual Deanery Lenten Clergy Retreat with Archbishop Michael in Syracuse
- Annual Diocesan Youth Day
- NY State Deanery served Akathist to St. Tikhon in Endicott, New York to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Tikhon's elevation to Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'
- Archbishop Michael hosted a Christmas Social get-together for clergy and families of the deanery, in Syracuse. It was a wonderful occasion for fellowship and celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with our Archpastor
- Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDBs) from throughout the New York State Deanery (over 100) gathered in Buffalo, NY and Ballston Spa NY, for two Appreciation Dinners, hosted by Archbishop Michael. During the year, DDBs contributed generously to support vital ministries; the work of the Church is being funded as never before! We ask for your continuous generous support of DDB Program
- NY State Deanery Clergy and Families Picnic was held in Lansing, hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Michael. It brought together priests, deacons, Matushki, and children for the purpose of strengthening our bonds of clergy brotherhood in the deanery with each other, and our Archpastor

- Annual Clergy Conference - Priests and deacons from across the farthest reaches of the diocese gathered with Archbishop Michael in Wappinger Falls St. Gregory the Theologian Church, for the 2018 Diocesan Clergy Conference. Nine accredited hours of Clergy Continuing Education [CCE] were available to meet the annual requirement of twenty CCE credits established by the Orthodox Church in America for all clergy. In addition, priests and deacons enjoyed and benefited from fellowship in prayer, unity in study of Scriptures, spiritual renewal, and a strengthening of brotherly affection among pastoral ministers
- Youth and clergy from NY State Deanery parishes and missions were actively involved in St. Andrew's Summer Camp (during July and first week of August), as camp directors, counselors, and campers; especially from Rochester, Endicott, Lansing, Buffalo, and few others, in substantial numbers
- Youth and clergy from NY State Deanery parishes and missions (in large numbers) attended and actively participated in All American Council of The Orthodox Church in America, held in St. Louis Missouri, this summer
- Saints Peter & Paul Church in Endicott continued to host the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program every Saturday from September in 2018. Our diocesan students are doing great and are actively involved in service (diaconia) and witness (martyria) in their home parishes, deanery, and the diocese

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.

Thank-you to all our DDB contributors! May our loving Lord bless you and return your generosity a hundred-fold. If you have not yet joined in the support of this excellent program, please consider doing it as soon as possible. For a listing of the ever-growing number of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors, as well as projects that are funded by them, please check our diocesan website -- [nynjoca.org](http://nynjoca.org) -- which is beautifully maintained and regularly updated thanks to our own, Father Ken James Stavrevsky.

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, have become the largest part of our deanery and diocesan life, under tireless stewardship of Archbishop Michael.

An alarming number of priests in NY State Deanery parishes are dealing with health issues, illnesses, and problems; both chronic and acute:

Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Father Jason Kappanadze (retired), Father John Chupeck, Father Herman Schick (retired), Father Igor Burdikoff (retired), and Father Ilya Gotlinsky. We ask for your continued prayers for their recovery and health.

We are grateful for the ministry of our deanery Deacons, to whom we express our gratitude for their faithful work: Rev. Protodeacons Andrew Boisvert (Binghamton), Stephen Sweet (Rochester), and Deacons Michael Burdikoff (Ballston Lake), Mark Bohush (Binghamton), Simeon

Peet (Binghamton), Sean McNulty (Rochester), Paul Federoff (Ballston Spa), Alexander (Scott) Anderson (Syracuse), David Donch Ivan Bazarov (Lansing) and Stephan Karlgut (Bronxville).

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!

All the parishes, missions and camps of the New York State Deanery were visited by His Eminence, on regular basis and often multiple times, throughout this year.

Ultimately, we thank His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, for his love, humility, service, and for providing an icon of a true servant leader: ***“Axios! Many years, Vladyko!”***

//signed//

Father Alexey Karlgut, Dean  
New York State Deanery