

Report to the Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow, NY
October 31, 2019
Chancellor - Mitred Archbishop Joseph Lickwar

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall be!

Your Eminence, Honorable Clergy and Faithful:

A bishop is the successor to the Apostles in the service and government of the Church. The bishop thus serves in place and as a type of Christ in the Church. A bishop holds the responsibility of maintaining the unity of the Church throughout the world by ensuring the truth and unity of the faith and practice of their diocese. The bishop represents his particular diocese to the other churches or dioceses, and represents the Universal Church to his own particular priests, deacons, and people. A diocesan bishop is responsible for and the head of all the parishes located in his particular geographical territory, called a diocese or archdiocese.

Our diocesan hierarch, His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, has called us to celebrate together the Divine Liturgy and receive the Holy and Life-Giving Mysteries and witness to the unity of faith and love of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ and one another.

Throughout the year His Eminence has faithfully served in capacities beyond our diocese and maintained the good order and life of our diocese with great enthusiasm, creativity and integrity truly honoring of Office of Bishop.

The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America and the Bylaws of our Diocese calls for a Diocesan Council to assist His Eminence with appointed clergy and laity, who are elected by the Assembly to serve as the Diocesan Council. The work of the Diocesan Council, Deans and various departments, committees and commissions is reflected in their reports to the Assembly today. Special areas have been addressed, such as: teens, altar servers, young girls and seniors, missions and evangelism, education, and communication through the Diocesan Website and the diocesan magazine, *Jacob's Well* continues.

Parishes have increasingly embraced tithing, educational conferences for church school teachers, and conferences for parish council members and parish choirs.

I have been fortunate to be a parish priest and to serve as Diocesan Chancellor for His Eminence for ten-years. Although the Office of Chancellor is not described in our Diocesan Bylaws, the work of the Chancellor is diverse as a consultant, representative of His Eminence at various events and meetings and overseeing special projects.

My earlier years of service as Chancellor were different from the present. Now the chancery staff has increased and the work of the diocese is more diverse and effective.

In 2020 by the grace of God, His Eminence will mark the 10th anniversary as our hierarch. We pray that our Lord will continue to bless him with health and many years. Axios! Axios! Axios!