

Report of the Diocesan Background Check Administrator

November 3rd, 2021

Martyrs Akepsimas, Joseph, and Aeithalás of Persia

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ:
Glory to Jesus Christ!

It has now been four years since the Orthodox Church in America hired Protect My Ministry (PMM) to handle background checks for all levels of church administration. Last year I highlighted four benefits of the system. You can view that report [here](#).

Background checks have a three-year shelf life. PMM notifies the administrator when an applicant needs a new background check. It removes guesswork and searching—no small matter when dealing with almost five hundred records! As of this report, all applicants have current background checks.

As you bring new members into the fold and equip them to serve Christ and his Church, please remember to vet them through this background check process. Every official email I send has a link in the signature for new applications. Ask your candidate to follow the link and fill out the form. I will see their application, run the background check, and, in most cases, see the results within the same day (in New York State) or within the week (New Jersey).

May the Lord bless and strengthen us all as we renew the ministries that were suspended during the first part of the pandemic. I am happy to help with any questions you have regarding background checks. Alleviating this single administrative burden is the way I serve the Diocese. My hope is that it allows rectors just a *little* more time to focus on the many responsibilities of parish ministry.

With love in Christ,
Archpriest Leonid Schmidt