

Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Office of the Chancellor
Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar

Your Eminence and Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Assembly
November 3, 2021, 11 a.m.

As stated in the By-Law of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Chancellor of the Diocese is an appointee of the archbishop, serves at his discretion, and his responsibilities and duties are determined by the Diocesan Archbishop. The Chancellor serves as ex-officio voting member of the Diocesan Council and its committees. Delegates to previous Assemblies are acquainted with these particulars. However, there are delegates who are participating for the first time, and these facts can be helpful.

The Chancellor, Deans, Diocesan Officers, and department chairpersons collaborate with the archbishop in a conciliatory effort, in which all who serve in the Diocesan Administration, assist in decision making, and often take on other responsibilities.

The Diocesan Deans have a specific deanery and oversee the clergy and laity of their deanery. Clergy and laity of their deaneries are to be in direct contact with each other. If I am contacted by clergy and laity about issues in their deaneries, I always defer them to their deans. The chancellor is not involved directly unless directed by His Eminence.

Among my specific duties, I serve as a confidant to His Eminence, Co-Chair the Diocesan Assembly, and represent His Eminence at Liturgical and secular celebrations.

The formation of the Parish Guidelines during the Pandemic has been a coordinated effort of His Eminence and the Diocesan Council in conjunction with the Holy Synod. Lack of establishing and observing guidelines among other Orthodox Churches world-wide have been catastrophic. While individuals have had covid, our parishes have not been devastated. Recently His Eminence was exposed to Covid, and he has completed quarantine.

Nursing homes, hospitals, doctors' offices, and other institutions ask very pointed questions, and request a signature on a document they provide on which one attests to exposure or non-exposure to Covid.

I attended the meetings of the Diocesan Council, the New Jersey Deanery of which I am a member, as well as specific committee meetings of the Presbyters Council, which has approved music and text for the Priest's Funeral and preparing a Divine Liturgy Book with notations for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Each priest is to print these materials.

I thank His Eminence, for circumspectly, compassionately, calmly, and wisely navigating us over the stormy waters of the of past year and a half, and for providing directives to guide us through the unknown that lies ahead, his care for the clergy and faithful through his prayers, teachings, and visitations.

We thank all the faithful of our parishes for their thoughtful support and commitment to the Church in these trying times. In and out of tribulations, our concern is always to be the Church.