

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Archpriest John Kowalczyk

46th Annual Diocesan Assembly

I planted, Apollos watered, but, God gave the increase. I Cor.3:6

When we review the work of the Diocese, as presented in the chronology of Bishop Tikhon's activities during this past year, we begin to realize very quickly the presence of Christ and work of the Holy Spirit within our midst. In our diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania we have a rich history of many bishops, priests and laity who laboured before us from whom we have received the Orthodox faith as our inheritance in the 21st Century, and it is up to us to water and cultivate, so God may give us the increase. The increase first and foremost is a spiritual mindset, together with the ascetical struggle, to grow in Christ. The chronology presented in this report is a reflection and a mirror of the work of the diocese led by our Spiritual Father and Archpastor, His Grace, Bishop Tikhon.

If we sow the seed, work hard and water the seed, God will give us the increase that we need. The key words are work hard. Others laboured before us. If they struggled to build the churches we are serving, we have to work harder to maintain and bring the message of salvation to those who live in our community.

In the midst of bringing the message of hope to the hopeless and the power of the forgiveness of Christ to a sinful generation, we are facing our own declining membership. We are also facing a depressed economy and the worst recession in modern history. This has no doubt had a paralyzing spiritual and psychological effect on some of our parishes. Nevertheless, the Gospel message is always Good News. We have the power as a diocese to begin to transform and transfigure our situation. This will take work, work and more work.

We can analyze and try to find the remedy for our situation and we pray our deliberations at this Assembly will produce much fruit. However, this can and will happen if we face the reality of our present difficulties and begin to do things differently. The definition of insanity; "is trying to do the same things over and over again, and each time we do it we expect a different result." This Assembly can become a turning point for our diocese, churches, priests and faithful, if we are willing to change and become creative and thus, responsible stewards for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We gather at this assembly, as a diocesan family, gathered around our Archpastor. We begin the Assembly by praying for the success of the holy work we will embark on. We will gather at the Divine Liturgy to offer the Holy Sacrifice on "behalf of all and for all."

We are blessed to have Bishop Tikhon for our Bishop. Many of our clergy and diocesan faithful have commented that he is approachable, gentle and kind. Many have stated to me personally, Bishop Tikhon is a good listener, and gives us the freedom to express our opinion without fear of reprisal or retribution. We also, have overcome difficulties in once again allowing a two day assembly, becoming not an exception, but, normative in the life of our diocese.

Let us be honest and speak frankly about the diocesan situation and turmoil we have begun to overcome during the past five years. Bishop Tikhon a few assemblies ago, spoke of the image of being in a ship and not realizing the ship is slowly turning. We have indeed made progress and have begun to turn the boat. The other image is of cleaning our house. We indeed have spent time "house cleaning" We don't need others to tell us how to clean our house. In turning the ship and cleaning our house, we have once again begun to trust. Trust is the foundation of any relationship, and must be the foundation of our diocese. We can begin to trust again and in trusting we begin to forgive and love each other.

The bishop is the image of Christ in our Midst. We are encouraged and at the same time equipped by the words of St. Paul: "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers, and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Eph.2:19-22

Chronology of Bishop Tikhon's Activities November 2008 to November 2009

November 2008

- 11/1-2 Consecration of Bishop Jonah, Dallas, TX
- 11/3 Divine Liturgy St Sava Mission, Plano, TX
- 11/8-9 100th Anniversary, St John the Baptist Church, Johnstown, PA
- 11/10-13 15th All American Council, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1/22 Diocesan Assembly, Bethlehem
- 11/23 Divine Liturgy Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg
- 11/26 Akathist "Glory to God for All Things", Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg
- 11/29-30 Vesper and Divine Liturgy with blessing of ground for new social hall St Michael's, Wilmington

December 2008

- 12/6-7 Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg with Icon of the Mother of God, "She Who is Quick to Hear"
- 12/7 Akathist to the Mother of God "Healer of Cancer" before the Icon "She Who is Quick to Hear", Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg

- 12/9 Akathist to the Mother of God "Healer of Cancer" before the Icon
"She Who is Quick to Hear", SS. Peter and Paul, Minersville
- 12/26-27 Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Patronal Feast, St Stephen's Cathedral,
Philadelphia
- 12/27-28 Enthronement services for Metropolitan JONAH, Washington, DC
- 12/29 Holy Synod Meeting, Washington, DC

January 2009

- 11/4 Divine Liturgy St John the Baptist, Edwardsville
- 1/13-20 Enthronement of Bishop ALEJO in Mexico City, Mexico
Meeting of the Holy Synod
- 1/21-22 March for Life, Washington, DC
- 1/25 Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, Catasauqua
- 1/30-2/4 Enthronement of Patriarch KIRILL in Moscow, Russia

February 2009

- 2/5 Diocesan Council Meeting
- 2/7 Teen Retreat at Pocono Plateau
- 2/8 Divine Liturgy at All Saints, Olyphant
Service of Commissioning of Christina Semon as Missionary
- 2/9-15 Clergy Retreat for Antiochian Diocese of the West - Los Angeles CA
- 2/17 Clergy Retreat at Diocesan Center
- 2/22 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 2/24-27 Holy Synod Retreat, Colorado Springs, CO

March 2009

- 3/1 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 3/2-6 First Week of Great Lent, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 3/7 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
Ordination of James Worthington to the Diaconate
- 3/8 Divine Liturgy at St Mary's Antiochian Church, Wilkes-Barre
Rite of Orthodoxy, Holy Resurrection, Wilkes-Barre
Concelebration of both events with Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian
Archdiocese
- 3/14 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
Ordination of Deacon James McKee to the Priesthood
- 3/15 Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's in Philadelphia
Mission Vespers - St John the Baptist, Nanticoke
- 3/20 Presanctified Liturgy - Irvona (WPA)
- 3/21 Divine Liturgy at Phillipsburg (WPA)
Vespers at Belle Vernon (WPA)
- 3/22 Divine Liturgy at New Salem (WPA)
Mission Vespers Allison Park (WPA)
Diocesan Council Meeting (WPA)

- 3/25 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
Ordination of Deacon Kyril Williams to the Priesthood
- 3/27 Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg
Divine Liturgy at Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg
- 3/28 Divine Liturgy at Holy Ascension in Lykens
Mission Vespers Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg
- 3/31-4/2 Spring Session of the Holy Synod

April 2009

- 4/3 Presanctified Liturgy in Carnegie (WPA)
- 4/4 Divine Liturgy and Lenten Retreat at St Mary's in Pittsburgh (WPA)
Vespers in McKees Rocks (WPA)
- 4/5 Divine Liturgy in Weirton, WVA (WPA)
- 4/8 Presanctified Liturgy and lecture, All Saints in Olyphant
- 4/11 Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
Ordination of Jason Franchak to the Diaconate
- 4/12 Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday, Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre
- 4/13-18 Holy Week Services, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 4/15 Holy Wednesday Unction Service, St Mary's in Coaldale
- 4/19 Holy Pascha, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 4/22 Bright Wednesday Diocesan Liturgy, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 4/26 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery

May 2009

- 5/1-3 OCF Alumni Retreat for Penn State OCF (WPA)
- 5/3 Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church, State College (WPA)
- 5/5 Diocesan Council Meeting
- 5/7 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery. Feast of St Alexis of Wilkes-Barre.
- 5/10 Divine Liturgy at St John the Baptist in Dundaff. Annual Mother's Day Dinner.
- 5/11-13 Midfeast of Pentecost. Holy Synod Meeting in Dallas TX. Celebration in honor of Archbishop DMITRI on the occasion of his retirement.
- 5/16 Ordination of Deacon Theophan Buck to the Priesthood at St Tikhon's Monastery.
- 5/17-18 Funeral Services for Archpriest Nicholas Yuschak: St Herman of Alaska in Gradyville and St Tikhon's Monastery
- 5/22-25 Memorial Day Weekend Celebrations at St Tikhon's Monastery.
- 5/25-6/3 Trip to France. Visit to Romanian Orthodox Church in Paris.

June 2009

- 6/6 Meeting with members of Teen Activities Committee at Diocesan Center.
- 6/6-7 Feast of Pentecost at St Tikhon's Monastery

- 6/14 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 6/16-18 4th Annual Clergy Continuing Education Symposium at St Tikhon's Seminary.
- 6/19-20 Symposium at St Vladimir's Seminary on "The Council and the Tomos"
- 6/21 Divine Liturgy at Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg. Beginning of 5th Anniversary celebrations.
- 6/26-27 Consecration of Bishop MELCHISEDEK in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 6/28 Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem for Fr. Dimitri Oselinsky's retirement.
- 6/28-29 Feast of St Peter and St Paul at St Tikhon's Monastery.

July 2009

- 7/3 Meeting with Teen Activities Committee
- 7/5-11 St Tikhon's Summer Camp
- 7/5 Ordination of Ian Burgess to the Diaconate (St Tikhon's Monastery)
- 7/7 Meeting with Deans (Diocesan Center)
- 7/12 Divine Liturgy, Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg
- 7/18 Widowed Clergy Wives Luncheon (Diocesan Center)
- 7/19 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery.
Ordination of David Taylor to the Priesthood.
- 7/25 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery.
Ordination of James Worthington to the Priesthood.
- 7/26 Divine Liturgy at Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre
Ordination of Mircea Airinei to the Priesthood.
- 7/27 Akathist to St. Panteleimon. Holy Annunciation, Berwick

August 2009

- 8/2 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery.
- 8/5 Great Vespers for Transfiguration, Holy Trinity in Pottstown.
Visit of Sisters of Mercy from Belarus.
- 8/6 Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 8/9 Divine Liturgy at St Basil's in Simpson (St Herman of Alaska)
- 8/12 Visit to Wilkes-Barre Area Vacation Bible School
- 8/13 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery (Patronal Feast Day)
Clergy Retreat at Diocesan Center
- 8/14-15 Feast of the Dormition at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 8/15-16 Vespers and Divine Liturgy at St Mary's in Philadelphia
- 8/16 Philadelphia Deanery Meeting, St. Stephen's Cathedral.
- 8/23 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery.
- 8/30 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 8/31-9/3 Extraordinary Meeting of the Holy Synod

September 2009

- 9/6 100th Anniversary of Nativity of the Theotokos Parish in Coaldale.
 9/7-8 Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos at St Tikhon's Monastery.
 Ordination of Jason Franchak to the Holy Priesthood.
 9/11 Frackville Deanery Meeting at St Peter and St Paul, Minersville
 Panikhida for Departed victims of terrorism and violence
 9/13 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery
 9/13-14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross at St Tikhon's Monastery
 9/16 Presentation on Agia Sophia Coffee House at Diocesan Center
 9/19 Church School Coordinators Meeting at Diocesan Center
 9/20 Divine Liturgy at St John the Baptist in Edwardsville
 Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir Concert at St Michael's in Jermyn
 9/21-25 Joint Session of Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod (Fall Session)
 9/26-27 35th Anniversary of St Stephen's Cathedral
 9/29 Dinner with OCF Students from ESU at Diocesan Center
 Lecture Series at St Tikhon's Seminary
 9/30-10/1 Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God
 Consecration of Bishop IRENEE of Quebec City in Ottawa, Canada

October 2009

- 10/3-4 35th Anniversary of St Mark's in Wrightstown
 10/8 Wilkes-Barre Deanery Meeting, Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre
 10/8-9 Feast of St Tikhon of Moscow, St Tikhon's Monastery
 10/11 Founder's Day Dinner at St Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary
 Reception at Diocesan Center
 10/13 Diocesan Council Meeting (Diocesan Center)
 10/17-18 OCF Retreat for University of Delaware
 Divine Liturgy at St Michael's in Wilmington
 Awarding of Gold Cross to Fr. Andrew Anderson
 10/21 Akathist before Icon "She Who is Quick to Hear" at Holy Cross in
 Williamsport
 10/24 100th Anniversary of Holy Annunciation in Berwick
 10/25 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery, concelebration with
 Metropolitan JONAH.
 10/31-11/1 Vespers and Divine Liturgy for 5th Anniversary of Holy Apostles
 Mission
 Awarding of Skoufia to Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

November 2009

- 11/7 100th Anniversary of St Michael's in Jermyn
 Awarding of Synodal Gramмота to Parish
 11/8 Divine Liturgy at St Michael's in Old Forge for Patronal Feast Day
 11/15 Divine Liturgy at Bucknell University OCF
 11/23 Meeting of Deans, Wilkes-Barre

Ordinations

His Grace, Bishop Tikhon ordained the following: James Worthington to the Holy Diaconate on March 7th and Holy Priesthood on July 25th, Jason Franchak to the Holy Diaconate on April 11th and Holy Priesthood on September 8th, Ian Burgess to the Holy Diaconate on July 5th, and Michael Pasonick to the Holy Diaconate on May 24th.

His Grace, Bishop Tikhon had ordinations on behalf of other Bishops. To the Holy Diaconate; James McKee on March 14th and Kyril Williams on March 25th and Theophan Buck on May 16th. To the Holy Priesthood; David Taylor on July 19th and Mircea Airinei on July 26th.

Installations

Fr. Michael Demko was installed as Rector of Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick.

Assignments and Transfers

Archpriest John Udics having served St. Mary's Orthodox Church in South Philadelphia for over 24 years and as Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery and Diocesan Council Secretary was canonically transferred to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America.

Priest Matthew Cantrell having faithfully served Holy Ascension Church in Frackville, was transferred to St. Mary's Church in South Philadelphia.

Archpriest James Jadick was released from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and received into the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and has received the assignment as Rector of Holy Ascension Church in Frackville.

Priest Timothy Hasenecz was released as Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Catasauqua, to full time chaplaincy work. We are grateful to Fr. Hasenecz for his pastoral leadership and responsibility as the Rector of the Church for these many years.

Priest Andrew Bartek was released from the Carpatho Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Archdiocese to the Orthodox Church in America and into the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania for assignment as acting Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Catasauqua.

Archpriest David Mahaffey was released as Rector of Holy Trinity in Pottstown to Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem. We are also grateful to Fr. Mahaffey for his leadership during this time of transition at Holy Trinity Church.

Retirement

Archpriest Dimitri Oselinsky was released from his responsibility as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem and was granted retirement. We pray Lord will grant a long and healthy retirement to Fr. Dimitri and Matushka Maryann and bless them for many years!

Funeral

Archpriest Nicholas Yuschak after many years in retirement and serving parishes in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania fell asleep in the Lord during the Paschal Season. Many clergy and faithful participated in the beautiful Priest funeral held at St. Herman's Church in Gradyville.

Continuing Clergy Education

A diocesan clergy retreat was held on February 17 and on August 13 at the Diocesan Centre. A Continuing Education Symposium was held at St. Tikhon's Seminary from June 16-18. If we are to begin to revitalize our parishes, we must begin to be transformed ourselves. We continue to encourage our diocesan clergy to take advantage of the many opportunities presented to them in the field of continuing education.

Clergy Awards

We congratulate the following clergy in receiving their ecclesiastical awards and we pray the Lord will bless their ministry for many years.

Fr. Andrew Anderson:	Gold Cross
Fr. David Mahaffey:	Jeweled Cross
Fr. John Onofrey:	Jeweled Cross
Fr. Timothy Hojnicky:	Skoufia

Parish Anniversaries

The following parishes have reached milestones in their Parish Anniversaries. His Grace, Bishop Tikhon participated in these festal celebrations.

Coaldale 100th (September 6)
St. Stephen's Cathedral 35th (September 27)
St Mark's Wrightstown 35th (October 4)
Holy Annunciation, Berwick 100th (October 24)
Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg 5th (November 1)
St. Michael's, Jermyn 100th (November 7)