

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT  
ARCHPRIEST JOHN KOWALCZYK

**“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time” “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Col.4:5-6**

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We take this opportunity at this at this Diocesan Assembly to congratulate, His Grace, Bishop TIKHON who on October 29<sup>th</sup>, marked his fifth year of installation as our Diocesan Hierarch. In prayerfully reflecting this anniversary we are given an opportunity to ponder on the *theology of the sanctification of time*.

We have received the church as a precious gift, a movement of grace in this moment of time and history. God has given us sanctified time to work out our salvation. *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph.5:15.* We are all called to become responsible stewards of the special ministries God has given to us.

A Diocesan Assembly is an opportunity to measure and gauge our strengths and weaknesses. By divine providence, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us, His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, as our spiritual leader. For over half a decade, Bishop Tikhon has had the awesome responsibility and weight of his high office in Shepherding and guiding the Priests and the Parishes in the ecclesial work of our diocese.

In the combination of being prudent and doing the work of the Church, sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. In this Assembly we pray that we all will have the courage to make decisions which will aid in the development of our parishes and the spiritual and physical growth of our diocese.

In reviewing the itinerary of our Bishop, we see a man with zeal and humility and prayerful strength to accomplish, direct and develop the work of our Church. In this anniversary year, let us increase our prayer for our Bishop that he may continue to *“divide the word of thy truth”* for us.

### **The Diocesan Council**

The Diocesan Council members are His Grace, Bishop TIKHON, Chancellor Fr. John Kowalczyk, Treasurer Fr. Martin Browne, Deans, V. Rev. Dan Kovalak of Wilkes-Barre Deanery, V. Rev. Michael Hatrak of Frackville Deanery, V. Rev. David Mahaffey of Philadelphia Deanery and clergy Metropolitan Council Representative, clergy representatives Rev. Nicholas Solak (at Large), Rev. John Soucek (Wilkes-Barre), Rev. Timothy Hojnicky (Frackville), Rev. Matthew Cantrell, (Philadelphia), Lay representatives John Buckeye (WB), Elsie Herman (Frackville), Mark Linnehan, (at Large), Doug Yates (Philadelphia), Metropolitan Council Representative David Yeosock.

Since the last Diocesan Assembly, the Council has met four times, March 23, May 20, August 17, and October 12. The diocesan council meetings are long, however, much is discussed and the meetings are very productive. Each meeting heard reports from the Bishop, Chancellor, Treasurer and with the Auditors presenting a report at the first three meetings. Issues of Diocesan interest and policy were discussed as relates to local and National issues. Recommendations and resolutions were made and acted upon by the appropriate diocesan authorities and communicated to clergy and lay leadership in the parishes as necessary.

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The substance of the Council's work is reflected in the reports of its members to the Assembly. However, one major task this year was to get our parishes in compliance with the *Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSP)*. This subject was discussed at length and communicated to the Deans of our Diocese for implementation.

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This document was approved by the Holy Synod of Bishop of the Orthodox Church in America in 2003 and became effective immediately within each diocese and institution of the OCA. Each diocese is required to forward a yearly report of compliance with the PSP, and this report is to include the confirmation of each parish's compliance.

### **Adoption of PSP**

It is mandatory that each parish council member be given a personal copy of the *Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct* and be asked to sign a form stating that they have read it and have accepted it as binding on the parish. This should be done YEARLY and recorded in the council minutes.

**The deadline for this information to be submitted was September 1, 2010.**

Letters and follow up letters were sent to the rectors of our parishes in July of this year, asking for compliance with the PSP. Attached is an appendix to my report on the (PSP) in the diocese of EP.

### **The Diocesan Census**

Attached as an appendix to my report is the Diocesan Census results for this year for the (37) parishes in our diocese. We thank everyone for their participation in completing this task and we are also very grateful to Matushka Sandy Kopestonsky our Administrative Assistant for the very careful entry of each parish membership.

### **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)**

In reviewing the itinerary of Bishop Tikhon, we see that he participated in the 2010 convocation of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), the official prison ministry of the Episcopal Assembly (formerly SCOBA - Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas) which took place August 19-21 at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia.

His Grace, Bishop Tikhon took a very active role in the Convocation, offering two meditations and participating in two Vesper Services and being the main celebrant and homilist at the Pan-Orthodox Liturgy on the last day of the convocation. Many of the clergy of our diocese registered for the convocation and the Philadelphia Deanery Clergy had a very positive and active role in the success of the convocation. Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk and Deacon George Zlatkowski organized the liturgical items necessary for the divine services.

The convocation brought together the many Orthodox clergy and laity from throughout North America who are participating in prison ministry or are interested in participating in prison ministry for a time of fellowship, education, encouragement, communal worship and the free exchange of ideas.

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**Ordinations for the Diocese**

George Zlatkowski to the Diaconate; St Stephen's Cathedral

**Installations:** Fr. Jason Franchak as Rector: Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown

Fr. Daniel Mathewson as Rector: St. Mary's Church in Coaldale

Fr. James Weremedic as Rector: St. Michael's Church in Wilmington

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**Assignments and Transfers**

Joseph Lucas (on loan from WPA) in Simpson

**Clergy Awards**

Fr. David Mahaffey: Jeweled Cross (Dec. 6)

Fr. John Onofrey: Jeweled Cross (Feb. 28)

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky: Skoufia

Fr. Martin Browne, Skoufia

**Seminarians**

Harrison Russin (SVS)

Kyle Housely (STS)

**Funerals**

Catherine Pianovich

Katherine Matychak

**Clergy Education**

Continuing Education Symposium at St Tikhon's Seminary

Retreat August 13

**Parish Anniversaries**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9/25-26 | Vespers and Divine Liturgy, SS Peter and Paul, Minersville<br>100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Ordination of Gregory Hatrak to Diaconate |
| 10/10   | Divine Liturgy, St Michael's, Wilmington<br>95 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Blessing of Social Hall                                      |

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DECEMBER 2009 to NOVEMBER 2010

**Bishop Tikhon's Activities**

**DECEMBER 2009**

12/4-5 Diocesan Assembly, Bethlehem

12/5-6 V and DL St Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Awarding of Jeweled Cross to Fr. David Mahaffey

12/13 DL Holy Trinity Stroudsburg

12/20 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
Wyoming Valley Choir Concert, Holy Resurrection Cathedral

12/22-23 Funeral Services for Archbishop JOB, Chicago, IL

12/24-26 Nativity of Christ Services, St Tikhon's Monastery

12/26-27 Vespers and DL, Patronal Feast, St Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia

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**JANUARY 2010**

1/1 Vigil and DL at St Tikhon's Monastery for Circumcision/St Basil

1/1-2 Vigil and DL at St Tikhon's Monastery for St Seraphim of Sarov

1/2-3 Vigil and DL at St Tikhon's Monastery

1/5-6 Vigil and DL at St Tikhon's Monastery for Theophany

1/9-10 Vigil and DL St Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis  
Ordination to the Diaconate of Gregory Krutchek

1/17 DL SS Peter and Paul, Uniondale  
Novogodny Dinner and Ball in Philadelphia

1/18 Lecture at OCF chapter in Philadelphia

1/19 DL at St Stephen's Cathedral (Old Calendar Theophany)

1/19-21 Meeting of the Holy Synod, Washington DC  
March for Life

1/24 Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas in Olyphant

1/30 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Deacon Christopher Maciolek to the Priesthood

1/30-31 V and DL St. Nicholas, Philadelphia

**FEBRUARY 2010**

2/2 Vigil and DL Meeting of the Lord, St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Patrick Smith to the Diaconate

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- 2/7 Divine Liturgy at St Stephen's Cathedral  
Ordination of George Zlatkowski to the Diaconate
- 2/10-11 Meeting of the Lesser Synod, Syosset, NY
- 2/13 Talk at Teen Retreat in Clarks Summit, PA
- 2/14 DL Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre
- 2/14-20 First Week of Great Lent, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 2/21 Divine Liturgy, Holy Ascension in Frackville  
Mission: Triumph of Orthodoxy at St Nicholas in Bethlehem  
Concelebration with Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese
- 2/24 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, St John the Baptist in Edwardsville
- 2/27-28 V and DL St Herman's in Shillington  
Awarding of Jeweled Cross to Fr. John Onofrey
- 2/28 Mission Vespers at St Mary's in Coaldale

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**MARCH 2010**

- 3/2 Visit of ROCOR Clergy Retreat  
Retreat for clergy of EPA with Bishop MELCHISEDEK
- 3/2-4 Metropolitan Council meeting, Syosset, NY
- 3/7 Divine Liturgy at St Michael in Jermyn  
Mission Vespers at Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre
- 3/8 Clergy Retreat for Lehigh Valley Brotherhood
- 3/9 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Minersville
- 3/10 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Stroudsburg
- 3/14 Divine Liturgy: Holy Trinity, Pottstown  
Installation of Fr. Jason Franchak as Rector  
Mission Vespers at Holy Trinity, McAdoo
- 3/16-19 Spring Session of the Holy Synod
- 3/20-21 Vespers, Divine Liturgy and Mission Vespers: St Herman, Gradyville  
with visit of Icon: She Who is Quick to Hear
- 3/23 Diocesan Council Meeting, Diocesan Center
- 3/24-25 Feast of the Annunciation Services, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 3/28 Palm Sunday, Holy Resurrection, Wilkes-Barre  
Bridegroom Mission St Tikhon's Monastery
- 3/29-4/4 Holy Week and Pascha, St Tikhon's Monastery

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**APRIL 2010**

- 4/6 Bright Tuesday Liturgy, St Nicholas in Bethlehem  
4/11 St Thomas Sunday, St Tikhon's Monastery  
4/17 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Zachary Lynch to the Diaconate  
4/18 Myrrhbearers, DL at Holy Resurrection, Alden Station  
4/25 DL St John the Baptist in Coatesville  
"Hospitality a la Russe" Dinner, Bethlehem  
4/26-29 Holy Synod Retreat in Colorado Springs, CO

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**MAY 2010**

- 5/2 DL Holy Trinity in Catasauqua  
5/7-8 Consecration of Bishop MICHAEL, Jersey City, NJ  
5/9 DL at St John the Baptist, Dundaff  
5/12 Meeting with Stroudsburg Orthodox Preschool  
5/13 Feast of the Ascension, St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Deacon Gregory Thompson to the Priesthood  
5/16 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination, Archpriest Daniel Donlick  
5/20 Diocesan Council Meeting, Diocesan Center  
5/23 Holy Pentecost, St Tikhon's Monastery  
5/25-27 Episcopal Assembly, New York City, NY  
5/28-31 Memorial Day Weekend  
Ordination of Deacon Benjamin Tucci to the Priesthood

**JUNE 2010**

- 6/2-3 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
6/5 Teacher Training, Holy Resurrection, Wilkes Barre  
6/5-6 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
Meeting of Philadelphia Deanery, Catasauqua  
6/7 Visit to RBO Headquarters in Philadelphia  
6/8 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
6/9 Webcast on Prophet Jonah (part 1)  
6/13 DL St John the Baptist, Nanticoke

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6/15-17 Clergy Continuing Education Symposium, St Tikhon's Seminary  
6/19-20 V and DL Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg  
Webcast on Prophet Jonah (part 2)  
6/23 Webcast on Prophet Jonah (part 3)  
6/23-24 V and DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
6/26 Clergy Wives Luncheon at Diocesan Center  
6/26-27 St Michael the Archangel, Wilmington  
6/30 Webcast on Prophet Jonah (part 4)

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**JULY 2010**

7/4-10 St Tikhon's Summer Camp  
Talk with campers, talk with teens.  
7/7-21 Visit to France  
7/25 DL St Basil's in Simpson  
7/27 Akathist to St. Panteleimon, Berwick  
7/31 10 Baptisms and Chrismations, Holy Cross, Williamsport

**AUGUST 2010**

8/1 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
8/4,11 Webcasts on Righteous Job  
8/8 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
8/13 Feast of St Tikhon of Zadonsk  
Clergy Retreat at Diocesan Center  
8/15 Dormition, St Tikhon's Monastery  
8/17 Diocesan Council Meeting, Diocesan Center  
RBO Convention Banquet, Scranton  
8/20-21 Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries Conference, Philadelphia, PA  
8/21-22 Vespers and Divine Liturgy  
St Mary's in Philadelphia  
8/25 Webcast on Elijah  
8/29 DL St Vladimir's in Lopez

**SEPTEMBER 2010**

9/5 DL St Tikhon's Monastery  
9/12 DL St Mary's in Coaldale, Annual Dinner

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- 9/17 Meeting with All Saints School Administration
- 9/19 DL St John the Baptist, Edwardsville
- 9/20-23 Holy Synod/Metropolitan Council Retreat and Meeting, Sea Cliff and Syosset
- 9/24 Board of Theological Education meeting, Syosset, NY
- 9/25-26 Vespers and Divine Liturgy, SS Peter and Paul, Minersville  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Ordination of Gregory Hatrak to Diaconate
- 9/28 First St Tikhon's Seminary/Diocesan Lecture: Wesley Smith  
St Tikhon's Monastery and St Stephen's Cathedral

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**OCTOBER 2010**

- 10/2 V and DL Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg
- 10/5-6 OCA-ROCOR Commissions Joint Meeting
- 10/9 Founder's Day Divine Liturgy and Dinner, St Tikhon's Monastery
- 10/10 DL St Michael's, Wilmington  
95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Blessing of Social Hall
- 10/12 Diocesan Council Meeting, Diocesan Center
- 10/15 Response to Talk on Ecumenism, U of Scranton
- 10/17 DL St Tikhon's Monastery
- 10/24 DL St Mary's in Coaldale  
80<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Central PA FOCA District
- 10/31 DL St Tikhon's Monastery

**NOVEMBER 2010**

- 11/4 Lecture at Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick
- 11/6 Town Hall Meeting at St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem
- 11/7 Divine Liturgy at St Michael's Church in Jermyn  
Banquet at St. Michael's Center  
Vigil for Archangel Michael at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 11/8 Divine Liturgy for Archangel Michael at St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Deacon Zachary Lynch to the Priesthood  
Ordination of Ian Shipley to the Diaconate
- 11/13 Divine Liturgy at St Tikhon's Monastery  
Ordination of Deacon Thomas Langdon to the Priesthood  
Vigil at St Vladimir's Seminary with the relics of St Vladimir



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**Upcoming**

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|----------|--|
| 11/14    | Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem<br>Burning of the Mortgage                             |
| 11/16-18 | Fall Session of the Holy Synod, Oyster Bay Cove, NY  |
| 11/19-20 | Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania<br>St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem                |
| 11/20-21 | Vigil and Divine Liturgy at St Stephen's Cathedral for the Feast of the<br>Entrance of the Mother of God |
| 11/24    | Akathist of Thanksgiving at Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg   |
| 11/29    | Roundtable Discussion on Religion and Politics at Kutztown University                                    |

**Bishop's Non-Diocesan Activities**

1. Monastery

- a. Blessing of new monastery building
- b. Dinner for Monastics (Nativity and Pascha)
- c. Installation of Abbot Sergius (January 23)
- d. Served Vespers/Matins (or Vigil) and Divine Liturgy

2. Seminary

- a. Dean Search Committee (4)
- b. Faculty Meetings (4)
- c. Board of Trustees Meetings (4) and Retreat (1)
- d. Conference on the environment (April 16)
- e. Century Association Hospitality a la Russe
- f. Seminary wives gathering
- g. Alumni Picnic
- h. Classes 2 hours/week each semester
- i. Founder's Day Dinner