

**REPORT TO THE 49<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
JANUARY 19, 2012, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA**

**REPORT OF THE DEAN, PHILADELPHIA DEANERY**

This is my last report as Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery. These duties have now passed to the very capable hands of Fr. James Weremedic, who was elected as Dean at the meeting we had during the Revitalization Clergy gathering at St. Tikhon's Monastery on November 9, 2012. He became the active Dean on December 1, 2012. I wish him every good fruit of the Spirit during his service to God and the Church in this role.

I was appointed Dean in the summer of 2009 by then Bishop Tikhon to replace the former Dean, Archpriest John Udics, when he left the OCA for a position with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New Jersey. That fall I was elected by my brother priests and have served in that capacity to the best of my abilities until the election last November. During that time I have had the honor of serving with some of the finest clergy in the OCA. I want to express my thanks to all of them for their help and understanding during my tenure as Dean.

Over the last three years there have been many changes to the Deanery and this report will highlight the most significant of them. Would there were time, I should like to acknowledge all of the efforts of every priest and the many ways the Deanery has moved forward through their untiring efforts. Every parish has had a significant event of either Spiritual or physical growth, or both. This has been possible because of the many capable and energetic Faithful in the parishes of this Deanery, and the good leadership provided by their priests.

**PARISH CLERGY CHANGES**

**Holy Trinity, Catasauqua** – Priest Timothy Hasenecz has served Holy Trinity in Catasauqua since the departure of Fr. Andrew Bartek, as he did prior to Fr. Andrew's assignment to Holy Trinity in 2009. Holy Trinity met with the Revitalization Committee in the hopes of finding a way forward but no decisions have been made since their meeting a year ago. Fr. Timothy continues to serve the parish in the interim as Priest in charge. The next bishop will need to address this situation for the good of all concerned.

**St. Nicholas, Coatesville** – Priest Stephen Miller is now serving the Parish of St. Nicholas in Coatesville. He was formerly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey as a Mission Priest and has been on loan from that Diocese until this year. We welcome Fr. Stephen, Matushka Jacqueline, and their sons to the Deanery.

**St. Herman of Alaska, Gradyville** – Archpriest John Perich is now Administrator of our National Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Washington, D.C. During the times when he is away from the parish in the Capital, Priest James Dougherty is serving Liturgy at St. Herman's. Fr. James is on loan from the Antiochian Archdiocese and is in the process of being formally accepted into the OCA. We welcome Fr. James and his daughter Katherine to our Deanery and hope their move is completed in the near future. We also pray that God will guide Fr. John in his duties at our Cathedral in Washington to a successful conclusion.

**St. Marks, Wrightstown** – Archpriest Theodore Heckman has retired as Rector of St. Mark’s in Wrightstown. Priest Martin Browne was transferred by then Archbishop Tikhon to the parish and moved in December of 2012 into the Rectory after some renovations were completed by the parish. We wish Fr. Martin, Matushka Heidi, and their children every blessing as they labor for God in Wrightstown.

## PARISH EVENTS

Throughout the year there have been many activities to benefit the Faithful and Communities in each parish of the Deanery. While events involving Ethnic Foods have an important role to the respective parishes that hold them, we should all remember that we are more than perogies and variations of cooked cabbage. To that end, I wish to acknowledge the activities that increased the Spiritual lives and public awareness of Orthodoxy within our Deanery.

**St. Herman of Alaska Gradyville / Villanova** – Probably the most unique and longest lasting event that sparked the most interest in the past year was the special Icon Exhibit at Villanova University, directed, produced and hosted by Fr. John Perich. A six week long attraction entitled "Icon: the Way to the Kingdom", not only was an exhibition of Icons and Sacred Relics and Artifacts from ancient times through our modern era, but also featured many A flyer with all the information concerning the event may be found here: <http://doepa.org/files/Monastery/Villanova-Press-Release.pdf>

**St. Nicholas, Philadelphia** – During the past year there were several significant events at St. Nicholas. They observed their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we wish them continued blessings and prosperity as they edge towards that important hallmark of 100 years. They also held several retreats throughout the year.

**St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Philadelphia** – The Cathedral continues to be the anchor of the Deanery, as well as the Diocese. Diaconate Classes continue to be held at there, as well as lectures and retreats for the Deanery. Each year there is an Akathist to St. Herman in December with a guest Lecturer. This year Protodeacon Gregory Moser gave a presentation on a “Gospel Centered Vision” from the Revitalization Committee of which he is a member.

## NEW OFFICERS

As previously stated, election of new Deanery Officers was necessitated by the retirement of Fr. Theodore Heckman, who served as Diocesan Treasurer for many years, and the transfer of Fr. David Mahaffey to the Diocese of Alaska as Bishop-elect and Administrator of the diocese. They were blessed by then, Archbishop Tikhon to begin their term in December of 2012. The current officers for the Philadelphia Deanery are:

Dean: Priest James Weremedic, of St. Michael’s Church in Wilmington Delaware.

Vice-dean: Priest Victor Gorodenchuk of St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Philadelphia.

Secretary: Priest Jason Franchak of Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown.

Treasurer: Deacon George Zlatkowski of St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted,



Hieromonk David (Mahaffey)