

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2013 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean
Fr John Soucek, Secretary

Fr David Shewczyk, Assistant Dean
Treasurer: Vacant

Glory to Jesus Christ!

WORSHIP: Parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery maintain a consistent and vibrant liturgical cycle. The Resurrectional cycle of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy is faithfully kept as well as the cycle of services for Great Lent, major feast days and to a more limited extent the lesser feast days and daily cycle of worship.

Exceptions to this liturgical life are the parishes that do not have a resident pastor – St. John's in Dundaff, Sts. Peter and Paul in Uniondale, St. Basil's in Simpson, Holy Resurrection in Alden Station and St. Vladimir's in Lopez. These parishes are limited to the Sunday Divine Liturgy and the basic services for Pascha and Christmas. St. Vladimir's in Lopez currently has Divine Liturgy one Sunday a month and Reader's services for the other Sundays.

St. John's in Nanticoke, St. John's in Edwardsville and All Saint's in Olyphant are likewise without a resident pastor, though their liturgical life and pastoral care are being ministered by regular and consistent clergy. For the time being, their liturgical cycle of services is more regular.

Clergy and faithful gathered during the season of Great Lent for Lenten Mission Vespers and other Services. These services were held at:

- Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre
- St. Michael's Church in Jermyn
- St. John's Church in Edwardsville
- Holy Annunciation in Berwick
- All Saints Church in Olyphant
- St. Tikhon's Monastery

Efforts are currently underway to schedule the Lenten Services of the Deanery for Great Lent 2013.

FELLOWSHIP: Fellowship accompanies most diocesan and deanery services and events.

Two Deanery meetings were held during the course of 2012 – June 7th and October 18th. Fr Daniel Kovalak, former Dean of the Deanery, was diligent and attentive to communicating with the Deanery clergy through regular email contacts.

Our Deanery includes several retired clergy and 'unattached' clergy who enhance the clergy brotherhood and provide tremendous help in our ministering at our many vacant parishes.

A clergy family picnic was held on July 16th and an Altar Server picnic on August 16th. Both events strengthened the brotherhood of our clergy.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Educational and outreach activities of the parishes in the deanery continues. Many parishes host Fall lectures and Lenten lectures. Some of the parishes in the Wilkes-Barre area join together for vacation bible schools. Concerts and ethnic festivals were also held.

Two parishes from the deanery participated in a FOCUS Appalachia mission trip.

The Clergy Continuing Education lectures and the Advent Retreat were attended by many, but not all, deanery clergy.

COMMUNICATION: As mentioned, Fr. Dan Kovalak former Dean, was dutiful in communicating with deanery clergy concerning Diocesan and Deanery matters through regular email contacts. Deanery meetings are well attended and the exchange of information, decision making, and planning are meaningful and productive.

MINISTRY: Parishes of the deanery continue to perform the sacraments of the Church, visit the sick and infirm, feed the hungry and poor, minister to the imprisoned and preach the gospel in their communities. Monies from the deanery treasure were distributed to various causes locally and nationally.

OTHER: Deanery clergy participated in the 17th All-American Assembly in Parma Ohio. The clergy of the deanery also articulated concerns regarding the Memorial Day Weekend Sunday Liturgy at St. John's ROCOR parish in Mayfield, PA where former OCA Metropolitan Jonah served the Divine Liturgy. The clergy of the deanery were concerned that many historical issues unique to our deanery were not fully understood by the Metropolitan when he made public comments at the liturgy. Fr Dan Kovalak, the dean of the deanery at the time, personally communicated the concerns of the clergy of the deanery to His Beatitude Jonah.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr Nicholas J Solak, Dean