

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY  
ARCHPRIEST JOHN KOWALCZYK  
JANUARY 17-18 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

This past year has been very challenging in my office as chancellor in aiding in the transition of leadership in our diocese. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work under the direction of our locum tenens, Bishop Melchisedek, and our administrator, Bishop Mark. I have attended deanery meetings, given reports at Diocesan Council Meetings, and have spoken at parish celebrations and retirements. In addition, I have assisted in organizing retreats and continuing education seminars for the clergy of our diocese.

Much time and effort has been dedicated to my responsibility as Chairman of the Episcopal Search Committee. In a letter posted on January 10, 2014, on *doepa.org*, I stated the following: *"According to His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek, at our Diocesan Council Meeting held in Philadelphia, the Holy Synod presented us with the names of two vetted candidates, one of whom declined, which gave us one candidate, His Grace, Bishop Mark."* His Grace, Bishop Mark, has been our Administrator for over one year and a bishop for nine years. He has faithfully administered the life of our diocese, under the wise guidance of Bishop Melchisedek, and has done a tremendous job visiting the majority of our parishes. Please review the 2013 Diocesan Calendar of Bishop Mark which is a part of my report. In between the lines you will see a very dedicated Bishop working tirelessly for the building up the Church of Christ. *"Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind."* (2Tim.1:6-7)

The Episcopal Search Committee presented three questions to Bishop Mark, a vetted candidate for the vacant see of Philadelphia. His Grace, Bishop Mark responded and gave his answers and they were sent on December 20, 2013 to all active clergy of our diocese to be distributed. The responses to these questions will also be available during this important Special Assembly as well as the 50th Diocesan Assembly. Finally, appointed members of the Episcopal Search Committee met on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Diocesan Center to further discuss his responses. I am pleased to announce there is 100% endorsement of the Search Committee for His Grace, Bishop Mark, as a Candidate for the vacant see of our diocese.

In addition, some of my other highlighted events for 2013 include the following: On January 22, I again organized the Orthodox participation in the Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. I accompanied, Bishop Mark on January 23 at a Christian Unity Dinner hosted by Bishop Joseph Bambara of Scranton. On Sunday, January 27, I represented our diocese at the Enthronement of Metropolitan Tikhon and spoke at the Grand Banquet. On January 29, I accompanied Bishop Mark at the retirement dinner of Archimandrite David Mahaffey in Bethlehem. On February 28, I helped Bishop Mark in organizing a luncheon for the retired clergy and those serving in our diocesan parishes. On March 11, I participated with Bishop Mark at a clergy revitalization retreat in Wilkes-Barre. I helped prepare our diocesan report for the Spring Session of the Synod of Bishops Meeting in New York. I assisted Bishop Mark in hosting a luncheon for the visiting Hierarchs and Clergy at the Diocesan Center at the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage. I attended the OCPM Board Meeting in Philadelphia with Bishop Mark. I gave a presentation at the Prison Ministry Training in Philadelphia on August 22. I hosted and organized the clergy retreat for the diocese at St. Michael's Center in Jermyn.

On Tuesday, January 13, I together with Fr. Martin Browne, attended the Annual Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers meeting at the Chancery of the O.C.A. I was very much inspired by the renewed spirit of brotherhood which was evident and the common dedication to strengthen our relationship with the Central Church Administration and to work out a method of funding of O.C.A. and our local dioceses. We welcome today, Fr. John Jillions the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America who graciously agreed to be our guest at this historic Diocesan Assembly.

I take this opportunity to thank Bishop Melchisedek for being our "Locum tenens" and Bishop Mark as our Diocesan Administrator. I thank the Deans of our Diocese for the outstanding work they have done and in helping fill our vacant parishes. I thank our Diocesan Treasurer for his continued commitment and tireless work. I especially want to thank Matushka Sandra Kopestonsky for all her efforts in the daily operation of the Diocesan Center and the many hours spent in organizing and preparing the necessary documentation for this Assembly.

Today at this Diocesan Assembly, we will prepare to move ahead and look directly at some of the problems which are facing us. Let us examine our work together as Orthodox Christians, dedicated to spreading the "Good News" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and move in the direction of mutual forgiveness, with a new and dedicated zeal of commitment to grow our parishes and build up our diocese.

I ask for your continued prayers and thank you for the support and trust you have placed in me in representing the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania as the

Chancellor. *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” Titus2:11-14) I remain,*

With love in Christ,

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Chancellor)

### ***Transfers/Assignments***

#### ***St. Nicholas, Bethlehem.***

*July 1, 2013 St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem, received their new priest. We warmly welcome Fr. Ian Shipley, Matushka Priscilla, Jessica, Evan and Lydia.*

***St. Vladimir, Lopez.*** *Effective July 16, 2013, we welcome Fr. Dennis Hendershot and his Matushka who have been received into the Diocese in retirement and attached to St. Vladimir Church, Lopez.*

#### ***All Saints Church, Olyphant***

*August 30, 2013. We welcome into our Diocese Father Paul Schellbach, Jr. and wife Matushka Patricia as they begin their ministry at All Saints Church in Olyphant, PA.*

#### ***St. John the Baptist Church, Edwardsville***

August 30, 2014. We are also happy to welcome Father George Volkovinsky, Matushka Larissa, their children, Anastasia and Elijah. They have immigrated into our country from Belarus.

#### ***St. Basil’s Church, Simpson***

September 12, 2013. We are happy to welcome into our Diocese Father Benjamin Johnson, his wife Matushka Ruth. and their four children, Marianna, 15, Alexander, 8, Sebastian, 6, and Elyse, 4, as they begin their ministry at St. Basil’s Church in Simpson, PA. Fr. Benjamin has been received into the OCA from the Antiochian Archdiocese.

**Congratulations** to the V. Rev. Fr. Michael Evans and Matushka Sonya on completing 40 years of ministry as they retire from Holy Ascension in Lykens (17 years of service) and St. Michael’s in Mount Carmel (24 years of service). May the Lord grant them both good health and Many, Many Blessed Years! Fr. Michael is attached to Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

**Holy Trinity, McAdoo.**

October 14, 2013. Welcome to Fr. Mircea and Matushka Jamie Sue Airinei and their children, Adrian, Andrei, David, Paul, George, and Anna.

**The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Michael Their** on October 23, 2013 was officially attached to Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

**St. Michael, Old Forge**

We extend a warm welcome to Father Peter and Matushka Mary Lynn Henry who have begun their new assignment on December 23rd.

**Father Daniel and Matushka Gail Mathewson** on November 17, 2013 finished their ministry at St. Mary's Church in Coaldale. They are assigned to the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

**Fr. Adam Sexton** is released from our Diocese and is under the omophorion of Archbishop Nikon for assignment to the Diocese of the South effective on February 1, 2014.

**JANUARY**

Saturday, January 19

49<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly, Bethlehem

Sunday, January 20

All Saints Church, Olyphant

**Novogodny Ball, Philadelphia**

Tuesday, Jan 22

Christian Unity, Dinner

Monday, January 23

March for Life, Washington, D.C.

Sat & Sun, January 26-27

Enthronement of Metropolitan Tikhon,  
Washington, DC

Monday, January 28

Synod of Bishops Meeting, Washington, DC

Tuesday, January 29

Farewell dinner for Archimandrite Mahaffey,  
Bethlehem

Wednesday, January 30

*Three Hierarchs Liturgy*, Christ the Saviour,  
Harrisburg

**FEBRUARY**

Saturday, February 2

**Meeting of the Lord.** Liturgy, St. Tikhon's;  
Ordination of Jeffrey David Morrison

Sunday, February 3

Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, Olyphant

Saturday, February 8-9

Winter Teen Retreat, Fatima Renewal Center,  
Dalton

Sunday, February 10 Liturgy, St. Mary's, Coaldale  
Sunday, February 17 Liturgy, St. John the Baptist, Nanticoke  
Sunday, February 24 Liturgy, Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick  
Thursday, February 28 Luncheon for Retired Clergy and those serving in  
Diocesan parishes

### MARCH

Sunday, March 3 All Saints Church, Olyphant  
Monday, March 4 Diocesan Council Meeting, Stroudsburg  
(Bishops Mark and Melchisedek)  
Sat & Sunday, March 9-10 Liturgy, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia  
Monday, March 11 Clergy revitalization Retreat, Holy Trinity,  
Wilkes-Barre  
Tues & Thurs March 12-14 Synod of Bishops Meeting, Syosset  
Sunday, March 17 St. Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Wednesday, March 20 Presanctified Liturgy, St. Michael, Jermyn  
Sunday, March 24 **Liturgy, St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville**  
**Vespers: Holy Resurrection, Wilkes-Barre**  
Liturgy, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Vespers: St. Nicholas, Philadelphia  
*Annunciation.* St. Tikhon's Monastery  
Monday, March 25 Presanctified Liturgy, All Saints Church,  
Wednesday, March 27 Olyphant  
*St. Gregory of Palamas Sunday*  
Sunday, March 31 Liturgy: Holy Trinity, McAdoo  
Mission Service: St. John, Nanticoke

### APRIL

Wednesday, April 3 Presanctified Liturgy, St. Nicholas, Olyphant  
Sunday, April 7 *Sunday of the Cross*  
Liturgy: All Saints, Olyphant  
Vespers: Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre  
Wednesday, April 10 Presanctified Liturgy, St. Michael, Jermyn  
Sunday, April 14 *St. John of Climacus Sunday*  
Liturgy: St. Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Mission Service: Holy Trinity, Pottstown  
Wednesday, April 17 Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre  
Sunday, April 21 *St. Mary of Egypt Sunday*  
Liturgy: Holy Ascension, Frackville  
Mission Service: St. Mary, Coaldale  
Wednesday, April 24 All Saints Church, Olyphant  
Sunday, April 28 *Palm Sunday*

Liturgy & Bridegroom Matins: Holy Resurrection  
Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre  
Monday, April 29  
Bridegroom Matins, Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg  
Tuesday, April 30  
Presanctified Liturgy, Christ the Saviour,  
Harrisburg  
Bridegroom Matins, Holy Trinity, Pottstown

### MAY

Wednesday, May 1  
Presanctified Liturgy, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Holy Unction, Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg  
Thursday, May 2  
Vesperal Liturgy, St. Stephen, Philadelphia  
Passion Gospels, Holy Assumption, Philadelphia  
Friday, May 3  
Royal Hours, St. Stephen, Philadelphia  
Vespers, St. Michael, Jermyn  
Saturday, May 4  
Liturgy, Holy Annunciation, Berwick  
Nocturnes, Paschal Liturgy, Holy Cross,  
Williamsport  
Saturday, May 11  
Clergy Search Meeting, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem  
Sunday, May 12  
Liturgy, St. Michael, Jermyn  
Monday, May 13  
Diocesan Council Meeting, St. Michael,  
Wilmington, DE  
Friday, May 17  
Vespers, Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg  
Saturday, May 18  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Liturgy, Christ the Saviour,  
Harrisburg (Bishop Mark and Melchisedek)  
Sunday, May 19  
Liturgy, Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg  
Liturgy, All Saints, Olyphant  
Monday, May 20  
Luncheon, Indian Orthodox Bishop, Syosset, NY  
Wednesday, May 22  
Meeting with Parish Council, St. Basil's, Simpson  
Saturday, May 25  
St. Tikhon's Seminary Graduation  
Saturday-Monday, May 25-27  
Memorial Day Pilgrimage, St. Tikhon's Monastery  
Memorial Day Luncheon for hierarchs and clergy

### JUNE

Saturday, June 1  
Financial Accountability Meeting, Holy  
Resurrection, Wilkes-Barre  
Sunday, June 2  
Liturgy, All Saints Church, Olyphant. Ordination of  
Fr. Moses MacPherson  
Sunday, June 8  
Financial Accountability Meeting, Holy Ascension,  
Frackville  
Thursday, June 13  
Ascension Day  
Saturday, June 15  
Financial Meeting, Holy Trinity, Pottstown  
Sunday, June 16  
Liturgy, St. Mark, Wrightstown  
Sunday, June 23  
St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville

Wednesday, June 26

Meeting with Bishop Bambara, Diocese of Scranton

Sunday, June 30

Liturgy, Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg

Sunday, June 30

St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville

Evening meeting, All Saints Church, Olyphant

### **JULY**

Monday, July 1

Deans Meeting, Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick

Sunday, July 7

St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville

Sun-Sat, July 7-13

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp

Sunday, July 14

St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville

Wednesday-Sat July 10-13

OCA Parish Ministries Conference, Arlington, VA

July 14-21

Diocesan Mission Trip, Holy Assumption, Phila.

Saturday, July 20

St. Athanasius (Kentucky) ground breaking

July 29

Healing Service, Holy Annunciation, Berwick

### **AUGUST**

Sunday, August 12

Diocesan Council Meeting, Mechanicsburg

Saturday, August 17

Women's Retreat, St. Tikhon's

Sunday, August 18

St. Michael, Old Forge

Thursday-Sat August 22-24

OCPM Board Meeting, Philadelphia

Thursday, August 22

Prison Ministry Training, St. Stephen's, Philadelphia

Thursday, August 22

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Altar Servers Retreat, W-B

Sunday, August 25

Holy Trinity, Pottstown

### **SEPTEMBER**

September 1

St. Michael, Old Forge

September 3

Continuing Anglican Meeting, Syosset

September 5

St. Nicholas, Olyphant

September 8

Liturgy, St. Mary's, Coaldale

September 12

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Meeting

September 13-15

Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg

Tues-Thurs, September 17-19

Assembly of Bishops, Chicago

Sunday, September 22

St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville

Tues-Thurs, September 24-26

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Friday, September 27

Celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminary, Syosset, NY

Sunday, September 29

St. Michael. Old Forge

### **OCTOBER**

Sunday, October 6

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Holy Ascension, Lykens

Monday, October 7	Luncheon with seminarian
Friday, October 11	Clergy Retreat, St. Michael's, Jermyn
Sunday, October 13	Retirement Dinner for Fr. Michael Evans, Mount Carmel
Monday, October 14	Meeting with OCA Treasurer, Melanie Ringa
<b>Tuesday-Thurs, October 15-18</b>	<b>Holy Synod Meeting, Syosset, NY</b>
Sat-Sun, October 19-20	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. Herman, Shillington
Sat-Sun, October 26-27	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Holy Assumption Church, Philadelphia

**NOVEMBER**

Sunday, November 3	Holy Resurrection Church, Alden Station
<b>Sunday, November 10</b>	<b>St. Michael's, Jermyn</b>
Sunday, November 17	Holy Resurrection Church, Wilkes-Barre
<b>November 19</b>	<b>Diocesan Council Meeting, Holy Assumption Church, Philadelphia</b>
November 23-24	St. Michael's Church, Wilmington, DE

**DECEMBER**

Sunday, December 1	Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick
Tues-Thurs, December 3-5	Preconciliar Meeting, Syosset
Sat-Sun, December 7-8	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Herman, Gradyville
Sunday, December 22	Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg
<b>Friday, December 27</b>	<b>St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia</b>

**JANUARY**

Sunday, January 5	St. Michael, Jermyn
Sunday, January 12	St. John the Baptist, Dundaff
Friday-Sat January 17-18	50 <sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem

Private meetings also held throughout the year with various clergy and laity

**Dates highlighted in blue will be attended by Bishop Melchisedek and Bishop Mark**  
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 All others will be attended by Bishop Mark