

Minutes of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Penna. held on July 10, 1971 at Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania.

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING THE DEANERIES OF FRACKVILLE, PHILADELPHIA, AND WILKES-BARRE WAS HELD JULY 10, 1971 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CATASAUQUA, PENNA.

An opening Molieben was served by Hieromonk Herman of St. Tikhon's Seminary and immediately following, the delegates assembled in the church auditorium and the meeting was officially opened with the prayer "O Heavenly King..." at 10:24 a.m.

The delegates attendance record is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The number in attendance was as follows:

26	Priest delegates
21	Lay delegates
3	Lay guests

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

Father Vladimir Borichevsky, Philadelphia and Father Alexander Fedoronko of Philadelphia were nominated for the office of Vice-President. Father Fedoronko declined. Father Borichevsky was elected Vice-President of the Assembly.

Russell Dugan, Edwardsville was nominated to serve as Lay-Vice-President of the Assembly. There being no other nominations, Mr. Dugan was elected.

Upon the recommendation of His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian, Fr. Joseph Martin, McAdoo was elected to serve as Clergy Secretary of the Assembly.

Peter Malinak, Harrisburg was nominated for Lay Secretary of the Assembly and declined. Being unable to nominate a Lay Secretary, Russell Dugan relinquished the chair as Lay Vice-President and volunteered to serve as Lay Secretary of the Assembly.

Nicholas Komernicky, Lykens, was unanimously elected to serve as the Lay Vice-President of the Assembly.

The agenda which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, was read and distributed by Fr. Hieromonk Herman. A discussion was held on the agenda and the body agreed to add the following items:

1. Report of St. Michael's Parish, Philadelphia
2. New Gospel by Fr. Holoviak

A motion was made to accept the amended Agenda by Father Adam Krell seconded by Fr. Fedoronko, and was passed unanimously. It was agreed by the Assembly to use Roberts Rules of Order as a guideline for conducting this meeting.

The minutes of last years meeting held on June 27, 1970 were distributed and a brief recess was called while everyone read them. There being no questions concerning the minutes, Fr. Goidich, made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Fr. Chupeck. They were passed unanimously.

#### REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

A summary of the main points of Archbishop Kiprian's report follows:



The 14th All American Sobor held at St. Tikhon's Monastery was the First Council of the Orthodox Church in America.

The name of the Church was changed to the (Autocephalous) Orthodox Church in America.

A new constitution is to be adopted.

The formation of a Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America which is to meet twice a year. A small synod should be convened every month.

Our Autocephaly was granted April 10, 1970 and is recognized by the following Autocephalous Orthodox Churches; (Russia) Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, and Jordan.

All heads of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches were invited as guests of honor for the election and enthronement of the new Patriarch of Russia. Archbishop Kiprian was the head of our delegation. The misconception among clergy and laymen that we were actively participating in the election of the Patriarch is untrue. We were merely invited as guests, other denominations were also invited as guests not only Orthodox. Pimen was elected unanimously as Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. On the eve of Pentecost, Archbishop Kiprian was the leading bishop at the service in the Patriarchal Cathedral of Epiphany of Moscow, Eloho. The Archbishop spoke about many aspects of his trip to Russia and about the people there.

Deaths: Fr. Andrew Diachenko and Fr. Andrew Vanyush. Memory Eternal was sung by the Assembly.

Ordinations: John Sorochka, Rodion Laskowsky, Paul Borick, Joseph Gallick, Michael Lepa, priests.

Deacons: Gregory Krytchek, Paul Borick

Assignments and transfers:

St. John's Mayfield, D. Oselinsky transferred to Herkimer, N. Y.

V. Rev. John Rachko, Leave of Absence

Fr. D. Pavelchak transferred to New England Diocese

Fr. Sorochka to Mayfield

Fr. Gallick to Lopez

Fr. Hatrak to Minersville

Fr. Kuchta to Edwardsville

Fr. Donlick to Jermyn

Fr. Lepa to Coaldale

Fr. Fetcho to Olyphant

Effective August 1, 1971, Fr. Borichevsky as Dean of Academic studies and full time Professor at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Assigned to the church of St. Tikhon's Monastery.

The Bishop attended Mission services in the Wilkes-Barre and Frackville deaneries.

The blessing of the renovated church in Alden Station took place in May, Nanticoke had a mortgage burning, Berwick will have the blessing of their new rectory on July 18 and the blessing of the new Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre will be on Nov. 7.

The chairman thanked his Eminence on a most thorough report.



## SECRETARY REPORT

The Diocesan Council met four times during the year. Fr. J. Rachko was replaced by Fr. Pawlush. The representatives to the Metropolitan Council are Fr. Martin and Russ Tatusko.

Concerning the group insurance plan, the clergy are showing poor co-operation.

Fr. Goidich made a motion to accept the report seconded by Frank Rusinko.

## TREASURERS REPORT

The financial report of the diocese is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

A motion to accept the report was made by Tessie Yarosky seconded by Russell Rudawski.

The fiscal period runs from June 1 to May 31.

There was no Auditors report.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business

## NEW BUSINESS

### Deanery Reports:

All reports are attached to and made a part of the minutes. Russ Dugan made a motion to accept all reports seconded by Fr. Vinyard.

BREAK FOR LUNCH 12:00 NOON RECONVENED AT 12:55 p.m.

## REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The V. Rev. Daniel Hubiak gave the report. The report is attached to and made a part of these minutes. As a result of not meeting their obligations, the Orthodox Church in America is in the red approximately \$75,000.00. The church administration has been authorized to borrow from a commercial bank the sum of \$80,000.00 to finance the budget for this fiscal year.

The Metropolitan Council is asking that a session be set aside at the next All American Council for the discussion of finances.

Russell Tatusko, our representative to the finance committee, said that the headquarters received only \$24,000.00 of the \$34,000.00 expected from our diocese. Mr. Tatusko said he would be willing to meet with any church committee or group concerning the finances of the O.C.A.

Remarks were made by Fr. Fedoronko, Fr. Borichevsky, Fr. Holoviak, Fr. Romanchak and Fr. Ressetar.

It was brought out once again that the assessment levied on the parishes are not the responsibility of the parishioner alone but of the parish itself.

On a motion by Fr. Herman and seconded by Fr. Holoviak it was decided to send the following resolution to the Metropolitan Council;



"The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania meeting in assembly in Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua, on Saturday, July 10, 1971, being aware of and deeply concerned for the financial status and the development and promotion of the Orthodox Church in America both on a Diocesan and a National level, does hereby recommend that the Metropolitan Council take immediate measures to take a complete census of all members of every parish and that the census be revised every two years and that a definite course of action be taken to collect delinquent assessments."

A reminder for delinquent assessments will come from the dioceses.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the guidelines for transfers and clergy assembly for personal problems.

#### MISSIONARY REPORT

Fr. Pawlush presented the report. Two areas were investigated, Stroudsburg and Williamsport. Stroudsburg is not feasible while Williamsport is still being checked into.

#### MINIMUM SALARIES FOR PRIESTS

A lengthy open discussion was held on salaries. The following resolution was made by Tessie Yarosky and seconded by Fr. Goidich.

"Each parish in the diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania consider as minimum salary for the priest the sum of \$500.00 per month with increases to be commensurate with the increased cost of living. Along with this, the parish is to supply living quarters with utilities and pay full social security and hospitalization." The resolution was passed with the following voting no: Mr. Warcholak, Mr. Rusinko, Mr. Rudawski, Mr. Oakill, Mr. Komernicky.

It was also noted that the average salary for priests in our diocese is \$350.00 to \$433.00. Mr. Wansacz made a motion seconded by Mr. Dugan to present the above resolution to the Clergy Salary Commission.

#### GROUP INSURANCE PLAN

Russ Dugan gave the report on the Insurance Plan. Seventeen priests did not fill out the information form. He noted that a group plan offers better coverage at cheaper rates. The plan would insure the priest for \$30,000.00, \$20,000.00 to his beneficiary, \$5,000.00 to the diocese and \$5,000.00 to the parish. Surgical and Major Medical benefits also available. The cost would be \$900.00 to \$1,200.00 per month or \$20.00 to \$30.00 for each parish. The co-operation of the priest is necessary for the success of this program. A very lengthy discussion was held on this plan.

#### PROMOTION OF DIOCESAN AFFAIRS

We are way below our budget for the last three years. One annual affair for the benefit of the diocese should be considered.

All parishes are asked to bring their diocesan assessment up to date. Statements are to be sent out to each parish that are in arrears.

A discussion was held as to what type of affair could be arranged. Fr. Fedoronko made a motion seconded by Fr. Romanchuk to see what kind of affair could be sponsored for the benefit of the diocese.



## OLD AGE HOME

Fr. Fedoronko made a motion seconded by Mr. Conco to form a commission for the establishment of a home for the retired and also to arrange a drive for funds.

## REPORT OF ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH, PHILADELPHIA

Fr. Fedoronko gave a lengthy report on the affairs of St. Michael's Parish in Philadelphia. A copy of this report was given to all at the meeting.

A. Tessie Yarosky presented the following resolution to the assembly for their consideration

"The Council of St. Michael's parish in Philadelphia humbly requests ~~due~~ to the circumstances which the parish has been experiencing over the past number of years and is yet experiencing, that St. Michael's parish be exempted from the arrearages which they unfortunately have accrued in their Diocesan Assessment." The arrearages amount to \$400.00.

Fr. Sorochka seconded the motion. The motion was carried with 1 no vote and 2 abstentions.

## NEW GOSPEL

Fr. Holoviak gave a report on the progress of his new Gospel. The English Gospel which follows the same format of the Slavonic is now in the hands of the printer. Orders are being taken.

## BUDGET

A motion to accept the same budget as last year was made by Fr. Romanchak seconded by Fr. Herman. This will be for the fiscal period June 11 to May 31, 1972. The motion passed unanimously.

The Christmas issue was brought up once again. All parishioners who pay dues must be sent ballots. If you do not want to send ballots to people who do not receive the Sacraments then do not take their dues. Quote from the Bishop.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Fr. Pawlush and seconded by Mr. Skuba.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by his Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian at 4:30 p.m.



Balance 5/31/70.....	\$3,340.23
Diocese Assessments.....	3,239.93
Receipts Orthodox Sunday.....	238.63
Mission Fund.....	74.00
St. Andrews Fund, Baltimore.....	<u>61.50</u>

Total Receipts 5/31/71.....	\$6,954.29
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Total Disbursements.....	<u>\$4,344.30</u>
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Balance 5/31/71.....	\$2,609.99
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General Account.....	\$1,535.34
Miss. Fund.....	577.02
St. Andrews.....	<u>497.63</u>

Total Brnk Balance.....	\$2,609.99
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First Federal Savings.....	1,252.73
First Penna. Bank.....	<u>871.36</u>

Total Balance 5/31/71.....	\$4,734.08
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# DIOCESE ASSESSMENTS

## Receipts to 5/31/71

Frackville.....	\$ 300.00
Dundaff.....	35.00
Uniondale.....	35.00
Baltimore.....	100.00
Dallas.....	25.00
Edwardsville.....	621.00
Albanian.....	54.00
McAdoo.....	100.00
Phila. St. Nicholas.....	127.43
Lykens.....	21.00
St. Clair, St. Mary's.....	20.00
Jermyn.....	300.00
Wilkes-Barre, Holy Trinity.....	300.00
Harrisburg.....	54.00
Pottstown.....	132.00
Coaldale.....	48.00
St. Clair, St. Michael's.....	150.00
Nanticoke.....	130.00
Coaldale.....	81.00
Old Forge.....	125.00
Lopez.....	26.50
Bethlehem.....	125.00
Alden Station.....	45.00
Mt. Carmel.....	185.00
Coaldale .....	<u>100.00</u>

Total..... \$3,239.93

## Receipts

Orthodox Sunday.....	\$ 238.63
Nanticoke St. Andrews.....	61.50
Old Forge, Mission Fund.....	<u>74.00</u>
Total.....	\$ 374.13



## DISBURSEMENTS TO 5/31/71

1970

6/27	St. Tikhon's Rent.....	\$ 600.00
6/27	Archbishop Kiprian.....	400.00
6/27	Witiak Printing.....	26.30
7/22	Rev. Pavelchak.....	45.00
7/22	Archbishop Kiprian.....	400.00
10/6	Archbishop Kiprian.....	400.00
10/6	V. Rev. Borichevsky.....	10.00
10/6	Rev. Swaiko.....	10.00
10/6	Rev. Martin.....	10.00
10/6	Russell Tatusko.....	10.00
10/6	Russell Dugan.....	10.00
10/6	Frank Rusinko.....	10.00
10/6	Archbishop Kiprian.....	10.00
12/8	Archbishop Kiprian.....	410.00
	V. Rev. Borichevsky.....	10.00
	Rev. Martin.....	10.00
	Hieromonk Herman.....	10.00
	Russell Dugan.....	10.00
	Russell Tatusko.....	10.00
	Frank Rusinko.....	10.00
	Rev. Pawlush.....	10.00

1971

1/15	Archbishop Kiprian.....	210.00
	V. Rev. Pawlush.....	10.00
	Hieromonk Herman.....	10.00
	Rev. Martin.....	10.00
	Russell Dugan.....	10.00
	Russell Tatusko.....	10.00
	Frank Rusinko.....	10.00
4/5	Fr. Paul Holoviak.....	98.00
	Wilkes-Barre Deanery.....	35.00
	V. Rev. Borichevsky.....	50.00
	Archbishop Kiprian.....	610.00
	Hieromonk Herman.....	10.00
	Rev. Martin.....	10.00
	Russell Dugan.....	10.00
	Russell Tatusko.....	10.00
	Frank Rusinko.....	10.00
	V. Rev. Pawlush.....	10.00
	St. Tikhon's.....	400.00
5/12	Archbishop Kiprian.....	400.00
	Total.....	\$4,344.30



Wilkes-Barre Deanery  
Church

Rev. Michael Michlik  
Holy Resurrection Church  
17 E. Kirmar Avenue  
Nanticoke, Pa. 18634

Rev. Paul Holoviak  
Holy Annunciation Church  
1228 Second Avenue  
Berwick, Pa. 18603

Rev. Hieromonk Herman Swaiko  
St. John the Baptist Church  
Dundaff, Pa.

Rev. Daniel Donlick  
St. Michael's Church  
308 Walnut Street  
Jermyn, Pa.

Rev. Joseph Gallick  
St. Vladimir's Church  
211 Main Street  
Lopez, Pa.

Rev. John Sorochka  
St. John the Baptist Church  
706 Hill Street  
Mayfield, Pa. 18433

Rev. Robert Kondratick  
St. John the Baptist Church  
106 Wells Street  
Nanticoke, Pa. 18634

Rev. John Chupeck  
St. Michael's Church  
572 Summer Street  
Old Forge, Pa. 18518

Rev. Vladimir Fecho  
St. Nicholas Church  
305 Gravity Street  
Olyphant, Pa. 18447

V. Rev. Michael Chanda  
All Saints Church  
210 Susquehanna Avenue  
Olyphant, Pa. 18447

Name and address of lay representative

Frank Rusinko (Dio. Council)  
101 Robert Street  
Nanticoke, Pa.

Daniel Ziaya  
496 Rushbrook Street  
Jermyn, Pa.

Sem. Gary Matychuk  
Lopez, Pa.

Michael Scuba

Russell Ruduski  
415 Jones Street  
Nanticoke, Pa.

Al Pritchyk  
510 Clark Street  
Old Forge, Pa.

Mike Grabania  
531 Grace Street  
Old Forge, Pa.

Harry Wansacz



Wilkes-Barre Deanery  
Church

Rev. Andrew Shuga  
St. Basil's Church  
33 Midland Street  
Simpson, Pa.

Rev. Hieromonk Herman Swaiko  
SS. Peter and Paul Church  
Uniondale, Pa.

Rev. Vladimir Petorak  
Holy Resurrection Church  
591 N. Main Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18705

V. Rev. George Pawlush  
Holy Trinity Church  
444 East Main Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Rev. Elias Krenitsky  
St. Andrew's Church  
Dallas, Pa.

Rev. John Kuchta  
St. John the Baptist Church  
93 Zerby Avenue  
Edwardsville, Pa.

FRACKVILLE DEANERY  
CHURCH

Rt. Rev. Apollon Nowitsky  
St. Nicholas Church  
1512 E. 6th Street  
Bethlehem, Pa. 18015

Rev. Michael S. Romanchak  
Holy Trinity Church  
1021 Fifth Street  
Catasaqua, Pa. 18032

Rev. Michael Lepa  
St. Mary's Church  
217 First Street  
Coaldale, Pa. 18218

Rev. Paul Ropitsky  
Holy Ascension Church  
209 S. Lehigh Avenue  
Frackville, Pa.

Name and address of lay representative

Eugene Grabowsky  
110 Meyers Street  
Edwardsville, Pa.

R. Dugan (Dio. Council)

Robert Sawarynski  
1521 E. 7th Street  
Bethlehem, Pa.

Michael Brusko  
4167 Roosevelt  
Whitehall, Pa.

Michael Warcholak  
221 First Street  
Coaldale, Pa.

Russell Tatusko (Dio. Council)



FRACKVILLE DEANERY  
CHURCH

Rev. Adam Krell  
Holy Ascension Church  
752 N. Second Street  
Lykens, Pa. 17048

Rev. Joseph Martin  
Holy Trinity Church  
223 S. Tamaqua Street  
McAdoo, Pa.

Rev. Michael Hatrak  
SS. Peter and Paul Church  
558 Sunbury Street  
Minersville, Pa.

Rev. Claude Vinyard  
St. Michael's Church  
131 N. Willow Street  
Mt. Carmel, Pa. 17851

V. Rev. Gregory Stefchak  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
47 S. Nicholas Street  
St. Clair, Pa. 17970

Rt. Rev. Andrew S. Slepecky  
St. Michael's Church  
106 Morris Street  
St. Clair, Pa. 17970

V. Rev. Andrew Fedetz  
Holy Ghost Church  
206 West Oak Street  
Shenandoah, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA DEANERY  
CHURCH

St. Nicholas Church  
2513 W. 4th Street  
Chester, Pa. 19013

V. Rev. Joseph Oleynik  
St. Nicholas Church  
11 Oak Street  
Coatesville, Pa. 19320

Rev. Daniel Ressetar  
Christ the Saviour Church  
5501 Locust Lane, Colonial Park  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17107

Name and address of lay representative

Nicholas Komernicky

Peter Oakill  
R. D. Box 136C  
Pottsville, Pa.

Michael Buchkarich

Peter Malinak  
25 Scarsdale Drive  
Camp Hill, Pa.



PHILADELPHIA DEANERY  
CHURCH

Rev. Andrew Goidich  
Assumption of the Holy Virgin  
2109 S. 28th Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

V. Rev. Vladimir S. Borichevsky  
St. Nicholas Church  
820 Hoffman Place  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19123

V. Rev. Alexander J. Fedoronko  
St. Michael's Church  
5416 Rising Sun Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19120

Rev. Nestor Geeza  
Holy Trinity Church  
519 Lincoln Avenue  
Pottstown, Pa. 19464

Rev. Roman Wytowich  
St. Andrew's Church  
3107 Berkshire Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21214

Rev. Michael Rachko  
St. Michael's Church  
431 S. Claymont Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Rev. Roman Serdynski  
St. Mary's Church  
3002 Rawle Street  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Name and address of lay representative

William S. Simpson  
1219 Stanwood Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19111

A. Tessie Yarosky  
5840 Hasbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19120

William Conco (Dio. Council)  
6401 Sefton Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21214



# WILKES-BARRE DEANERY OF THE PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE

Report for the Diocesan Assembly  
July 10, 1971

## General

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery includes 16 parishes in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Five Deanery meetings were held since last report.

## Lenten Missions

The Diocesan Sunday of Orthodoxy was held in the Deanery at Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre.

The Deanery coordinates Mission Vespers during Great Lent. In order to visit all parishes the Deanery was divided into two groups. Twelve parishes were visited.

## Publications

Available from the Deanery is the pamphlet The Blessing of Motherhood.

Also available is a prayerbook with English and Slavonic texts.

Religious tracts and leaflets will be published and distributed by the Deanery.

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery News was published monthly and contained a message from a member of the clergy, parish events, coming events and Deanery news. Father Paul Holoviak was editor. The publication was available to the faithful without charge and is distributed in the churches.

In December 1970, the Frackville Deanery was invited to jointly sponsor the Deanery News. Since mid winter the News was sponsored by both Deaneries with Father Holoviak remaining on as editor.

## Dedications and Blessings

The remodled and reburbished Holy Resurrection Church in Alden Station was dedicated during the month of May.

The newly constructed rectory in Berwick will be blessed on July 18.

## New Construction

Work is proceeding on the construction of the new Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre. The new Cathedral will be consecrated during the month of November.

Work is proceeding on the remodeling and refurbishing of St. Nicholas' Church, Olyphant.

## Projects

The Deanery sponsored a Deanery Family Picnic at Saint John's picnic grounds Nanticoke. \$1,000.00 of the proceeds went toward the purchase of new volumes of books for Saint Tikhon's Seminary library. The remainder for monetary grants to seminarians from the deanery.

A Seminary Scholarship Award Dinner-Dance will be held on October 10, 5:00 p.m. at Saint Michael's Hall, Old Forge.



WILKES-BARRE DEANERY OF THE PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE  
Report for the Diocesan Assembly  
July 10, 1971

Miscellaneous

8 seminarians received grants of \$100.00 each from the Deanery. Outright grants to seminarians from the deanery have been discontinued. A new plan for awarding 3 scholarships will be announced shortly.

A survey of Orthodox faithful living in the Stroudsburg and Williamsport areas was taken for the purpose of establishing parishes there. Stroudsburg was ruled out. A further survey will be made in Williamsport.

Saint Andrew's parish, Dallas, is the first parish in the deanery to celebrate the fixed holydays according to the revised calendar.

New Priests in Deanery

Fr. John Serochka has been assigned to Mayfield; Fr. Joseph Gallick to Lopez; Fr. Vladimir Fetcho to St. Nicholas', Olyphant.

Transfer of Priests within Deanery

Fr. John Kuchta has been transferred to Edwardsville; Fr. Daniel Donlick to Jermyn.

Deanery Officers

Father George Pawlush, Dean  
Father Paul Holoviak, Assist. Dean  
Father Daniel Donlick, Treasurer  
Father Rodion Kondratick, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,  
Father George Pawlush, Dean



## FRACKVILLE DEANERY REPORT - JULY 10, 1971

Rev. Michael Lepa, St. Mary's Church, Coaldale, and Rev. Michael Hatrak, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Minersville, are the newly assigned priests in the deanery.

Retired priests residing in the deanery are: Rt. Rev. Andrew Fedetz, Shenandoah, V. Rev. Paul Pianovich, Lykens, and V. Rev. George Yankevich, Lancaster.

Rev. Joseph Martin has been assigned to assume the pastoral duties of Holy Ghost Church, Shenandoah, in addition to his assignment to Holy Trinity Church, McAdoo, because of Father Andrew Fedetz's retirement.

Matushka Vladimir Prislopsky moved from Cleveland last month to Harrisburg where she purchased a home.

In cooperation with the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, the Deanery News is being published and distributed each month in all the parishes since January of this year.

A \$1,000 deanery pledge was made toward the construction costs of the future Bell Tower that will be built at St. Tikhon's Monastery to commemorate the canonization of Blessed Father Herman of Alaska and the First Council of the autocephalous Orthodox Church in America.

This month two \$100 scholarships will be offered to two deanery students who plan to enter at least their second year of higher education.

The annual American-Orthodox Day will be held at Lakewood Park, Barnesville, near Mahanoy City, on Sunday July 18, 1971. Vespers will be served at 1:30 p.m. by the deanery priests with the responses being sung by a combined deanery church choir. At 3:00 p.m. the Anthracite Balalaika Orchestra and Chorus under the direction of Mr. Stephen Rudawski, Nanticoke, will present a concert in the ballroom. Priests of the diocese are requested to announce this July 18th event to their parishioners; everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

Rev. Daniel D. Ressetar, Dean,  
Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg

Rev. Joseph Martin, Secretary,  
Holy Trinity Church, McAdoo

Rev. Michael Hatrak, Treasurer,  
SS. Peter and Paul Church, Minersville



# REPORT OF THE DEAN OF THE PHILADELPHIA DEANERY OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers and Representatives:

This being the first Diocesan Meeting since my election , October 16, 1970, to the post of Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery, I wish to submit the following report:

Every church in the Deanery is being served by a full-time pastor and there are no vacancies.

There are no special problems within the Deanery, except for the still unsettled situation in the case of St. Michael's Church in Philadelphia.

In February of this year, the V. Rev. John Rachko, formerly pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville, Pa., was released from the Wilkes-Barre Deanery and attached to St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem. In his present status, he will be able to officiate, when needed, in our deanery and our diocesan. In the near future, for example, he will be taking the place of Fr. Alexander Fedoronko who is vacationing in Europe. Also, for Fr. Borichevsky when he goes to St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Lenten Mission Services were held in Bethlehem, Catasauqua and Philadelphia this year.

The clergy of the Deanery made their Lenten Confessions in two places Catasauqua and Philadelphia.

On April 4th a special Vespers with Akafist was sponsored by the Colonial District of the F.R.O.C. The service was held in St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia and all of the priests of the Deanery were present.

On June 5th, the V. Rev. Joseph Fedoronko was buried in Cassville, N. J. The Divine Liturgy and Order of the Burial of Priests was conducted by myself, assisted by the V. Rev. Jos. Oleynik, the V. Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky and the Rev. Andrew Goidich.

It is my sincere hope that the coming year will show more cooperation and activity within our Deanery for the betterment and continued growth of the Orthodox Church in America.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Appolon Nowitsky,  
Dean of the Phila. Deanery of the Orthodox  
Church in America



## A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of two presiding officers for the Assembly: 1 lay and 1 priest Vice-President and 1 lay and 1 priest Secretary
3. Roll Call
4. Reading of Agenda
5. Reading of the minutes of last assembly
6. Report of Diocesan Archbishop
7. Report of Secretary
8. Report of Treasurer
9. Auditors Report
10. Old Business

### SHORT RECESS

#### 11. New Business

- (a) Deanery Reports
- (b) Report on Finance Department of the Orthodox Church in America
- (c) Missionary Reports
- (d) Minimum salaries for priests; Social Security and Hospitalization
- (e) Group Insurance Plan
- (f) Promotion of Diocesan Affairs
- (g) Old Age Home
- (h) Other Matters
  1. Report of St. Michael's parish, Philadelphia
  2. New Gospel
- (i) Closing Prayer



JULY 7, 1971

DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA & PENNSYLVANIA

	1967 CENSUS		REMITTANCES				1971 CENSUS	
	MEMBERS	ASSES.	1968	1969	1970	1971	MEMBERS	ASSES.
<u>FRACKVILLE DEANERY</u>								
BUCK RUN, PA.	?	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	-
CENTRALIA, PA.	?	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	-
COALDALE, PA.	302	\$1510	\$880	\$615	\$626	\$975	?	?
FRACKVILLE, PA.	225	\$1125	\$1450	\$1450	\$1425	-0-	?	?
HARRISBURG, PA.	89	\$445	\$520	\$532	\$570	-0-	?	?
LYKENS, PA.	55	\$275	\$300	\$305	\$290	-0-	?	?
McADOO, PA.	85	\$425	\$320	\$355	\$365	\$140	?	?
MT. CARMEL, PA.	244	\$1220	\$925	\$925	\$925	-0-	185	\$925
MINERSVILLE, PA.	58	\$290	\$246	\$254	\$335	\$100	70	\$350
SHENANDOAH, PA.	?	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	-
SHEPPTON, PA.	?	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	-
ST. CLAIR	334	\$1670	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	?
- ST. MICHAEL	78	\$390	\$245	\$137	\$45	-0-	?	?
- ASSUMPTION								
<u>PHILADELPHIA DEANERY</u>								
BETHLEHEM, PA.	235	\$1175	\$500	\$1225	\$1350	-0-	?	?
CATASAUQUA, PA.	150	\$750	\$450	\$335	\$410	-0-	?	?
CHESTER, PA.	186	\$930	\$100	-0-	-0-	-0-	?	?
COATESVILLE, PA.	36	\$180	\$160	\$185	\$200	-0-	?	?
PHILADELPHIA - ASSUMPTION	200	\$1000	\$860	\$650	\$605	\$342	?	?
- ST. NICHOLAS	497	\$2485	\$2300	\$2275	\$905	-0-	400	\$2000
- ST. MICHAEL	380	\$1900	\$1342	*-0-	\$500	-0-	?	?
- SS. PETER & PAUL	-	-	-	-	\$209	-0-	?	?
- POTTSTOWN, PA.	174	\$870	\$275	\$615	\$695	\$660	132	\$600
WILMINGTON, DEL.	40	\$200	\$220	\$193	\$197	\$91	30	\$150
BALTIMORE, MD.	105	\$525	\$480	\$445	-0-	-0-	?	?

\*\$1300 CHECK NOT CASHED  
FUNDS FROZEN



JULY 7, 1971

DIocese OF PHILADELPHIA & PENNSYLVANIA - CONTINUED

	1967 CENSUS		REMITTANCES			1971 CENSUS		
	MEMBERS	ASSES.	1968	1969	1970	1971	MEMBERS	ASSES.
WILKES-BARRE DEANERY								
ALDEN STATION, PA.	44	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 200	\$ -0-	\$ 200	40	\$ 200
BERWICK, PA.	262	\$ 1,310	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	100	\$ 500
DALLAS, PA.	-	-	-	-	\$ 105	\$ 125	25	\$ 125
DUNDAFF, PA.	24	\$ 120	\$ 150	\$ 190	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	?	?
EDWARDSVILLE, PA.	300	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,195	\$ 2,195	\$ 2,230	\$ 2,200	440	\$ 2,200
JERMYN, PA.	300	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -0-	300	\$ 1,500
LOPEZ, PA.	302	\$ 1,510	\$ 505	\$ 465	\$ 465	\$ 150	87	\$ 435
MAYFIELD, PA.	300	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	?	?
NANTICOKE, PA.	44	\$ 220	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ 600	\$ -0-	85	\$ 425
OLD FORGE, PA.	182	\$ 910	\$ 700	\$ 585	\$ 625	\$ 770	?	?
OLYPHANT, PA. - ST. NICHOLAS	171	\$ 855	\$ 405	\$ 480	\$ 290	\$ -0-	?	?
- ALL SAINTS	249	\$ 1,245	\$ 1,555	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,475	\$ 800	295	\$ 1,475
SIMPSON, PA.	75	\$ 375	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -0-	150	\$ 750
UNIONDALE, PA.	45	\$ 225	\$ 125	\$ 150	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	?	?
WILKES-BARRE, PA.								
RESURRECTION	1025	\$ 5,625	\$ 1,860	\$ 1,865	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	?	?
TRINITY	?	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,640	\$ -0-	?	?
		\$ 34,480	\$ 24,188	\$ 23,376	\$ 19,832	\$ 7,053		\$ 11,695



REPORT ON ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH OF PHILADELPHIA  
To  
THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
AND PENNSYLVANIA - CATASAUQUA, PENNA. - JULY 10, 1971  
Presented by  
FATHER ALEXANDER J. FEDORONKO, RECTOR

It is my understanding that the purpose of this and previous Diocesan Assemblies is to report to the clergy and lay delegates here assembled as representatives of the parishes of this diocese; the aims and achievements, the programs and the problems, as well as the general conditions not only of the Diocese as a whole, but also of the individual parishes.

In the sixteen years that I have been in this diocese, I have only once absented myself from the Diocesan Assembly meeting. This happened in 1970 because of circumstances which were personally and parochially most trying and dangerously tempting. In my 27 years as a priest in the Metropolia, I've missed only two Sobors, one in 1955 when I was transferred from Wisconsin to Philadelphia almost at the very time of the Sobor; and the other was last year, 1970, when the trying and tempting conditions I mention above left me in a state of near physical and mental exhaustion and I was compelled to take a brief leave and respite from the tensions of the time.

In light of this, which I humbly consider to be a rather faithful record to my diocese and to the Church, I was indeed surprised, dismayed, and annoyed when it was conveyed to me that the Chancellor of the Metropolia, now the Orthodox Church in America, when confronted with a request from St. Michael's Church of Phila. at a Metropolitan Council meeting in Pittsburgh on May 8 of this year, seemed not to know that St. Michael's was still in existence and, indeed, inquired about Father Fedoronko's whereabouts, wanting to know what he (i.e., I) is now doing! The amazing thing is that the Chancellor knew that Father Barna was in Phila. at St. Michael's Patriarchal Church, but he did not know that Father Fedoronko was still the pastor of St. Michael's Church of the Metropolia.

Now, I do not fault our esteemed Chancellor, who has given so many years of devoted service to our church in America for this oversight, but I rather attribute it to the lack of communication between our ecclesiastical authorities, and to the failure of our ecclesiastical organs, one of which is the Diocesan Assembly, to properly and fully convey the conditions and circumstances of life of the whole diocese, and of every parish.

Since the Chancellor of our church was unaware of my parish's existence and of my whereabouts, I must assume that the great majority of clergy and lay delegates gathered here in this August assembly to seriously contemplate the conditions now prevailing in this diocese, and to earnestly consider ways and means of correcting the inadequacies and of enhancing the progress and good estate thereof; I can only assume that you too are unaware of the fate of the faithful people and of the priest of St. Michael's Parish in Phila., and I therefore feel compelled to report to you and give you a brief resume of our recent history which, though greatly troublesome, is deserving of our attention and, indeed, worthy of commendation.

Surely you have, all of you, or most of you, and indeed the entire Orthodox Church in America, and even some bishops and priests on other continents, - during the early sixties - from 1962 to 1966 - received a series of more than sixty anonymous letters which villified the priest and people of St. Michael's Parish and, indeed, the clergy and hierarchy of the entire Orthodox Church in America. I am sure that those who received those anonymous letters took the time to read them. And I am equally certain that some of those who read them, both among clergy and laymen alike, accepted some of the accusations and villifications as factual. I am therefore hopeful, that you will patiently listen to the truly factual resume which I will now give you, not for the purpose of defending or justifying the people and

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priest of St. Michael's of Phila., for in the eyes of the Omniscient God they need no words of defense or justification, but rather that you who are not omniscient might know what this people of God have endured and given for the Orthodox Church in America, which has neither been acknowledged at any Council of the Church, large or small, nor has it ever been conveyed to you or to any body of the Church for purely informational purposes.

That which we may now call the trying and most difficult decade at St. Michael's Parish began in early 1962 when a group of parishioners, because of personal ambitions and dishonest aims, endeavored to illegally gain control of the Parish and its assets. They began by disclaiming affiliation with the Metropolia, and therefore refused to acknowledge the rectorship of the priest who was duly appointed to the parish by the late Metropolitan Leonty, and declined to accept the authority of the duly elected and confirmed Parish Council. They offended and belittled the Dean, the late Father Nicholas Senofsky, in his efforts to normalize the situation; and they booed and hollered at a priest who is present at this assembly, when he attempted to chair a parish meeting at the request of the Dean. Finally, they adamantly disavowed the authority of the Hierarchy and, ignoring the pleas of the latter, disregarding the interventions of the Dean, and refusing to listen even to the voice of the Parish itself, the great majority of which was faithful to the Church and its hierarchy; this dissident and anarchical group of parishioners convened an illegal meeting in January, 1963, with the intent of ousting the rector and the Metropolia Hierarchy from the parish, and to illegally obtain control of the parish property and cash assets.

To prevent this illegal takeover we had to resort to action in the civil courts in February of 1963, for which we received the permission of the late Metropolitan Leonty of blessed memory. During the entire first year of litigation the dissident group, time and again, swore under oath that they acknowledged NO hierarchy, that they were completely and totally "independent". In the meanwhile the faithful people of St. Michael's, whose pastor I was and am until this day, were defending the hierarchical principle of the Orthodox Catholic Church and faithfully stressing their affiliation with the Metropolia. The dissident group lost the first part of the case. The Court adjudicated their meeting illegal, and found that all actions taken thereat to be null and void, including the eviction of the rector and the election of their parish council. The meeting of the parishioners faithful to the Metropolia, held on February 3, 1963, was judged to be the legal one, and the Council elected thereat was confirmed by the Bishop of this diocese and subsequently installed.

Following this decision in January of 1964, the dissident group changed its tactics. It abandoned the position of "independence" and claimed affiliation with the Moscow Patriarchate. This litigation of the jurisdictional dispute continued actively from February, 1964 until May of 1968 when we of the Metropolia won the decision in the lower courts. An appeal was taken to the Pa. Supreme Court by the Patriarchal group and, on November 11, 1969 the Pa. Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower courts and, on the strength of an ancient and ambiguous charter, found that St. Michael's is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Moscow. We then took an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, but that court, in early 1970, informed us that it would not review the case and the decision of the Pa. Supreme Court remains in force.

What I want to impress upon you is that from 1963 to 1970, a full seven years, we were fighting in the civil courts, defending the hierarchical principle of Orthodoxy and giving faithful allegiance to the Metropolia. During those seven years we did battle with a dissident group which not only professed an heretical "independence", but also villified and blasphemed the people of God, clergy and laity alike;

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and which, by its degenerate conduct, desecrated the Holy Orthodox Church. During those long years we sought no financial assistance from any quarter. The cost of litigation ran into many, many thousands of dollars. We not only sought no help, but we met these tremendous expenditures and the regular parish budget without any contributions from the dissident group who completely stopped contributing in the offering tray and paying their parish dues as far back as 1962.

During my pastorate, in the period from 1956 to 1969, a total of 14 years, the people of St. Michael's contributed \$29,979.61 to the Metropolia and its educational and charitable institutions; \$23,619.58 of which was contributed from 1962-1969, that period during which we were in litigation, which as I've already pointed out, cost us many thousands of dollars. During this eight-year period St. Michael's contributed a total of \$8,129.81 to St. Valdimir's and St. Tikhon's Seminaries, for an average of more than a thousand dollars each year.

It is true that we were fighting to protect the interests of the parish and the parishioners, but at the same time our struggle was in behalf of the hierarchical principle of the Church, and also to keep within the Metropolia a parish, the great majority of whose parishioners were and are a faithful, devoted, and most generous people.

To give you an example of their dedication and generosity allow me to cite this instance. On November 11, 1969 the Pa. Supreme Court found against us. At that time we were at a point of almost total frustration and despair. We were, legally, left almost propertiless and penniless. We faced eviction from our church and the freezing of our cash assets. Yet, two weeks later, on the Feast of St. Michael, we had our hierarch celebrate the Divine Liturgy and invited St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir to sing the responses. Notwithstanding the blow which our people received on November 11, on November 21 the good people of St. Michael's contributed almost \$600.00 to St. Tikhon's Seminary and also presented the usual honorarium to their hierarch.

Let me further say, not for the sake of self-emulation, but merely for the record, that on the last occasion that a public report was given on the 2% contributions of the clergy to the Metropolia, which occurred at the 13th All-American Sobor in 1967; of all the contributions of the clergy to the Metropolia for the period reported, barring none, the contributions of the Pastor of St. Michael's was the greatest. I can assure you that he is not, by far, the highest paid priest in the Metropolia!

Why do I mention these figures - these statistics? It is not pleasant for me to do so, you may be sure. But you shall shortly learn what has motivated me to resort to this factual and statistical report.

In January of 1970 we were seriously threatened with dispossession of all church property, and with the freezing of all parish funds. Indeed, in February of 1970 our parish funds were frozen, and remain so until this day, and we were left almost penniless; and on March 1, 1970 we were evicted from our church. From March of 1970 until Easter of this year we were able to worship at our little chapel, which was quite inadequate for our needs, and which we were renting from the owners of the property. On Easter Monday we had to evacuate the chapel to make way for a new building which is to be constructed on its site. Since that time we have been sharing the church of a neighboring Episcopal congregation.

During this most crucial time in the life of our parish, in the church life of a people who sacrificed and gave so much for the preservation of the principles and the very sanctity of the Church, we received only one call or communication from any priest, bishop, or laymen of the Church, that being from a priest of the Phila.

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Deanery present in this room, asking if he or his parish could be of help and at least offering the use of sacred articles, should we have need of them. Not only did we not receive offers of assistance, but we now most recently learn that our very existence has been forgotten. That is why, at the beginning of this report, I mentioned the lack of communications between the ecclesiastical authorities on the one hand, and between organs of the Church such as this, on the other.

We - the people and priest of St. Michael's - did communicate with the proper authorities. We submitted our reports and presented our pleas to the hierarchs for whose very dignity and authority we expended so much time, effort, and money. During April and May of 1970, when the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America was already an accomplished fact, we had two or three meetings with Metropolitan Nikodim who gave us his hierarchical word that he would use his office to amicably and equitably resolve the dispute at St. Michael's. We had these meetings with Metropolitan Nikodim with the knowledge and at the behest of our own diocesan authority. Certain concessions were even made by this diocese to expedite the settlement. But His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim, in the final analysis did not, or, as he said, could not keep his word because he was pressured by the threats of a people who renounced his and all hierarchical authority, and he therefore could not insist that justice be done to that people who defended the Church and its doctrines.

On May 30, 1970 - the day of the annual pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery - I and several members of our parish council arranged for an audience with His Eminence, now His Beatitude Metropolitan Ireney, with His Grace, now His Eminence Archbishop Kiprian, and with the then representative of the Patriarchal Church in America, Bishop Juvenaly. We came to offer a prayer and make a final plea, not for the few present at that meeting, but for the many faithful, devoted, and generous people of St. Michael's Parish in Philadelphia. We begged and we pleaded our position and our cause, asking in the Name of Christ that some compassion and justice be shown; that the Hierarchs implement the justice which the courts failed to do. As a matter of fact, the lower court, which initially found in our favor, and which was empowered by the Pa. Supreme Court to carry out its decision, asked for and was awaiting a directive from the Hierarchs of the Patriarchal Church by which it, the lower court, could equitably resolve the dispute. Our pleadings and prayers went unheard. Bishop Juvenaly declined to issue any directive in the matter, and our hierarchs did but little to persuade him to do so, thus somewhat abandoning a parish which had proved itself so faithful. We at St. Michael's were, as the saying goes, "abandoned out in left field"; we were left to shift for ourselves.

This was crushing in itself. But the final blow came a couple of weeks later at last year's Diocesan Assembly. As I mentioned at the outset, I did not attend that assembly because of the trying and tempting conditions I was experiencing personally, and my parish parochially. I did, however, receive a copy of the minutes of that assembly, which was mailed out to the parishes sometime in October of last year. I was then doubly crushed to find, or I should say, not to find, one single word in the report of our diocesan authority in reference to the trying circumstances of St. Michael's Parish. Not one word as to "what can we do", or "how can we help"! It was, as our eminent Chancellor was led to believe, an indication of our 'non-existence'! And this was only two or three weeks after we pleaded our cause at St. Tikhon's Monastery. What is more, in His Eminence's report to the Assembly last year, our hierarch mentions the construction of new rectories in Wilkes-Barre, Catasauqua, and Frackville, but makes no mention of the new rectory at St. Michael's in Phila., the construction of which was completed in December of 1969. His Eminence was aware of the construction since we did not undertake it before we received permission from our hierarch to proceed with it, and he was notified when the rector and his family moved into it.

(Cont'd. on pg. 5)



It is therefore no surprise to me that people in higher places in the Church are unaware of the very existence of St. Michael's Parish in Phila., and that perhaps many of you present at this assembly are equally unaware. For this reason I felt compelled to present this report.

In conclusion I will only say that I have, in the past six months, received but one communication in reference to the life of St. Michael's Parish. That communication was a reminder from the representative of this diocese to the Finance Committee of the Orthodox Church in America, informing me that my parish is \$400.00 in arrears in its diocesan assessment.

I thank you for your time and apologize for the length, and in some areas, unpleasant nature of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander J. Fedoronko, Archpriest  
Rector of St. Michael's Parish in Philadelphia