

Minutes of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania held on July 8, 1972 at St. Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary - South Canaan, Pa.

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING THE DEANERIES OF FRACKVILLE, PHILADELPHIA AND WILKES-BARRE WAS HELD JULY 8, 1972 AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY/SEMINARY - SOUTH CANAAN, PA.

An Opening Meleбен was served by the V. Rev. Igumen Herman of St. Tikhon's Monastery and immediately following the delegates assembled in the Seminary Auditorium and the meeting was officially opened with the prayer "O Heavenly King" at 10:18 a.m.

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

24 Priest Delegates
16 Lay Delegates
3 Lay Guests
1 Priest Guest

The Agenda which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof was read by the V. Rev. Igumen Herman. A discussion was held and the following item was added:

1. Flood Appeal

ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky, South Canaan, was nominated for the office of Vice-President. Fr. Borichevsky was elected Vice-President of the Assembly. (clergy)

Mr. Steve Kundrat, Berwick, was nominated for the office of Lay Vice-President. The nomination was closed and Mr. Kundrat was elected Lay-Vice-President of the Assembly.

Fr. Joseph Martin, McAdoo, was nominated for the office of Priest Secretary. Fr. Martin was elected.

Mr. William Kopestonsky was nominated for the office of Lay Secretary and was elected to that office.

The minutes of the last meeting held on July 10, 1971 were distributed. A motion was made by William Kopestonsky to dispense with the reading of the minutes and seconded by Boris Stoiancheff. The motion was passed.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

The Archbishop's report was distributed to the delegates. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

The assembly sang Memory Eternal for the late Patriarch Athenagoras. The clergy were asked to mention the Patriarch's name during the Divine Liturgy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report was distributed to the delegates. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. There were no questions concerning the secretary's report. Boris Stoiancheff made a motion to accept the report and Steve Kundrat seconded the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Tatusko could not be present. His report was distributed to the assembly. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

The main thing noted was that some parishes are reporting different figures to the diocese and to the Orthodox Church in America as to their number of members. Changes should be made. A supplement was also handed out for checks received after May 31, 1972 only for the purpose of noting checks received since the end of the fiscal year.

A discussion followed.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor's reported that the books balanced. They recommended that all the parish treasurers be told not to make the checks out to the treasurer personally, but to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

They also recommended that a new system of bookkeeping be instituted and noted the need for a financial secretary. The auditors were asked to bring this up under new business.

Fr. George Pawlush made a motion to accept both the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports, seconded by Fr. Michael Chanda.

OLD BUSINESS

Minimum Salary for priests.

The Archbishop stated that since the passage of the resolution last year many churches have raised the priests salary to \$100.00 a week. Some parishes have held back on the salary increase because of the wage freeze specifically Mayfield.

A discussion followed concerning those churches who have not complied with the resolution.

GROUP INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. Russell Dugan was not present due to the flood. He had a more detailed report. Fr. Pawlush reported that Mr. Dugan was held up for a while because of incomplete returns from the clergy. He was able to finally get reports from Prudential and Metropolitan Life Insurance Companies.

It was recommended that it be made mandatory to fill out the survey report. It was noted that they have acted on those who did reply and that even if you did fill out the report it did not obligate you to take the insurance.

It was decided to drop the discussion since Mr. Dugan was not present. It was noted also that some of the letters were lost in the flood and until copies of these are received, nothing further could be done.

OLD AGE HOME

Fr. Alexander Fedoronko made a motion to form a commission for the establishment of a home for the retired. Mr. William Conco seconded the motion. This was table for discussion later together with the Diocesan Center expansion.

NEW BUSINESS

Fr. Daniel Hubiak, Secretary-Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, was a guest at the assembly and he spoke concerning the finances of the O.C.A.

He stated that there is a definite lack of cooperation on the part of many and the O.C.A. now finds itself \$90,000.00 in debt. We are the only really free Autocephalous Orthodox Church and we should be the hope of the captive churches.

On October 20, 1972 there will be a joint session of the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod to see what we can do. We are losing property, especially in Alaska, because we have no funds to maintain these missions.

A discussion followed. It was noted that only \$3800.00 was collected from our diocese last year for the United Fund. This is less than \$1.00 per person.

The \$5.00 assessment was discussed - many felt this was too low - some, too high. A census form has been sent out but all parishes have not completed this. Cooperation is needed at every level. The people should be made to realize that this is a very important obligation.

Fr. Herman made a recommendation that we are receiving the information too late. He felt that we should be given all the facts, both good and bad as soon as available.

His Eminence made an appeal to all present, the Rev. Fathers and lay representatives alike, to take serious care in the obligations of each parish to the O.C.A. The \$5.00 assessment was a decision of the All American Council and it is up to you to fulfill this obligation. You should also check your records and give an accurate and true count of your people. If you find a mistaken count - pay it, both in the future and for the past.

This is the decision of the Archbishop that the delegates report this to their respective Church Committees.

Fr. Hubiak noted that people are more prosperous, parishes more prosperous - but from the parish to the Church Administration there is no cooperation. There is no pride in not knowing our failure, the parishes therefore, lose respect for the National Church and Administration. Fr. Hubiak asked for the names of the flood victims from the parishes on behalf of the Church Administration.

DEANERY REPORTS:

The reports of the Wilkes-Barre and Frackville Deaneries are attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

There was no formal report from the Philadelphia Deanery since the Dean, Father Nowitsky, was in the hospital.

BREAK FOR LUNCH - reconvened 1:15 p.m.

BUDGET

Fr. Borichevsky presented the budget. He spoke about the possibility of the Diocesan Center with offices, meeting space, etc. Additional budget information is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

Archbishop Kiprian spoke about the possibility of having an Auxiliary Bishop to help him. He made several points.

- (1) His age - he needs help to fulfill his obligations to the Diocese.
- (2) It would also be good to have a successor to fill his place when he dies. He has seen the difficulty in Alaska with Bishop Theodosius's transfer to Pittsburgh.

The Archbishop will present his request to the Holy Synod who will select the candidate and appoint him for the office but he has to have the money available in the budget in order to do this.

The budget anticipates a 50¢ increase in the assessment and also the expenses involved with the selection of a new bishop.

Mr. Constantine Spyrou made a motion to raise the diocesan assessment to \$2.00 per person instead of the anticipated \$1.50 per person. Mr. Conco seconded the motion. A discussion followed.

Someone noted that instead of increasing the assessment - we should concentrate on collecting from the parishes who are not paying.

It was noted that 90% to 95% of the parishes are paying the present assessment faithfully. One problem has been the inconsistency in the number of people reported in the parishes. Three parishes have been approached and they have adjusted their total and paying the difference. Even Shenandoah (one of the smallest parishes in the diocese) will soon be sending a token payment.

This only pointed to the need of an accurate census - for the good of all parishioners, priests and the O.C.A.

Fr. Shuga from Berwick spoke about our having an obligation to meet. We are the only ones who can do it. We are way behind in giving because we keep on remembering myths and worrying about the minority who might object to it. Progress is what is needed. Our diocese is the lowest in terms of assessments and will still be even with the increase.

A vote was called for on the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Spyrou made a suggestion to distribute some sort of diagram to each parish to show how the money is spent.

Mr. Boris Stoiancheff made a motion to accept the budget as revised, seconded by Alex Spaseff.

As a point of information, the Contingency Fund is used to meet special demands in the diocese.

It was recommended also that the increased income be put into the Missionary Fund or Miscellaneous Expense and used at the discretion of the Diocesan Council.

DIOCESAN CENTER

It was decided to look into the Children's Home for use as a Diocesan Center since there are no longer any children there.

Fr. Pawlush stated that the Children's Home is a Corporation by itself. They probably can transfer or rent the property but they must stay intact because of a legacy left them. They possibly can rent from the Corporation but a functioning orphanage group which retains an office must be set up. Mr. Russin, who is a lawyer and a member of the Board cannot be contacted until he gets his office back in order from the flood.

There will be some expenditures to maintain the building. It will be possible to have the offices and living quarters for the Auxiliary Bishop and meeting rooms.

The building itself is now being rented to the school district until next June and will not be available until then. Fr. Pawlush was asked to continue on as chairman of this project.

LAY MEMBER TO THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL APPOINTED

Mr. Conco had to resign his post as a member of the Diocesan Council. His Eminence asked if there were any interested laymen who could fill the unexpired term. Archbishop Kiprian appointed Mr. Constantine Spyrou from Philadelphia to this post.

FLOOD RELIEF

It was decided that the diocese would make an appeal on behalf of the flood victims. The diocese will print envelopes and distribute them to the parishes. All are urged to have the collections as soon as possible. Those outside the diocese will, if they wish to contribute, send them here.

Besides our church in Edwardsville - it was noted that the Greek Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre was very badly damaged and also the Orthodox Church in Reading was hit.

A form letter will be with the envelopes. This will be read to the people. The final date for the Appeal will be August 27, 1972.

It was also noted as a point of interest that Miss Carol Kripp of Harrisburg initiated the idea for the walk, "Walk for Alaska" on Memorial Day. They raised \$826.00 and \$100.00 has been added since then. It was hoped that they would have \$1000.00 for Fr. Kreta when he leaves to assume his duties as Administrator of Alaska. Would like to thank the young people for their willingness and initiative in this matter.

The Wilkes-Barre Deaner then pledged \$74.00 to make the total \$1000.00. The Frackville Deanery also added \$50.00 to that total.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDITORS

- (1) New system of recording is needed. A ledger should be used which is organized according to parishes.
- (2) A Financial Secretary is needed to handle the recording of the finances.

The Archbishop suggested that the council will appoint the financial secretary. This person would not be a member of the council but keep the books only. At the next diocesan election, if it is so desired, this office then would be established.

It was suggested that a better time could be had to hold the meeting. Because of the Archbishop's trip to Europe this meeting was delayed. The meeting is to be held in the early part of June. The fiscal year is June 1 to May 31.

Suggestions were made to hold next years assembly elsewhere. Harrisburg was suggested as was Allentown. Archbishop Kiprian stated that there must be a church available.

Mr. Peter Patolak made a motion to have the next assembly at St. Tikhon's on a date to be announced, seconded by Mr. Constantine Spyrou. The motion was approved.

Fr. George Pawlush made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Fr. Paul Ropitsky.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joseph Martin, Priest Secretary

William Kopestonsky, Lay Secretary

Confirmed for distribution by Archbishop Kiprian on September 22, 1972 (No. 70).

PRIEST AND LAY DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

Rev. Nestor Geeza (Pottstown)
Rev. Roman Wytowich (Baltimore, Md.)
Boris Stoiancheff (Bethlehem)
Constantine A. Spyrou (St. Stephens - Phila.)
Tessie Yarosky (St. Stephens - Phila. - guest)
William Conco (Baltimore)

WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

V. Rev. Michael Chanda - William P. Kopestonsky - All Saints (Olyphant, Pa.)
Rev. Rodion Laskowski - Dorothy Denesevich - St. Basil's (Simpson)
V. Rev. George Pawlush - Peter J. Patolak - Holy Trinity (Wilkes-Barre)
V. Rev. Vladimir S. Borichevsky - St. Tikhon's
Rev. Adam Krell - St. Tikhon's Monastery - attached
Rev. Michael Lepa - St. Tikhon's Monastery - attached
Rev. Rodion Kondratich - Russell Ruduski (Nanticoke)
Frank Rusinko (Alden Sta.)
Rev. Andrew Shuga - Steve Kundrat (Berwick)
Paul Holoviak (Berwick - guest)
V. Rev. Igumen Herman (Uniondale and Dundaff)
Rev. Daniel Donlick - Daniel Ziaya (Jermyn)
Rev. Joseph Gallick (Lopez)
Rev. John Sorochka - Mike Scuba (Mayfield)
Rev. John Chupeck - Al Pritchuk (Old Forge)
Rev. Vladimir Fetcho - Mike Grabania (Olyphant - St. Nicholas)
Rev. Michael Michlik - Michael Warcholak - Coaldale
Michael Bubernak - Coaldale (Guest)
Rev. Claude Vinyard - Mt. Carmel and Centralia)
Rev. Paul Ropitsky - Michael Pinchock (Frackville)
Rev. Daniel Ressetar - (Harrisburg)
Rev. Michael Hatrak - (Lykens and Minersville)
Rev. Joseph Martin - (McAdoo and Shenandoah)

VRev. Daniel Hubiak - Treas. O.C.A.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA
PERIOD JUNE 1, 1971 TO MAY 31, 1972

Bank Balance May 31, 1971

\$2609.99

INCOME

1970-1971 Assess.	\$2378.00
1971-1972 Assess.	2468.65
Missionary Fund.	2317.73
O.C.A. Award	60.00
Xmas Donations	11.00
Total Income	<u>\$7235.38</u>

\$9845.37

EXPENSES

Salary for Diocesan Bishop	\$2230.00
Expenses for Delegates	200.00
O.C.A. Award	60.00
Bal. of Rent for St. Tikhon's 1971-1972	200.00
Rent for St. Tikhon's 1971-1972	600.00
St. Andrews, Baltimore	497.63
Holoviak Printing - Miss Fund	49.50
Hieromonk Sebastian Services	15.00
Rev. Deacon Hubiak Services	25.00
V. Rev. Jos. Kreta Services	50.00
Rev. J. Martin Met. Council	108.00
Rev. Kondratick, Sunday School	30.00
Rev. J. Martin	10.00
Total Expense	<u>\$4075.13</u>

BALANCE MAY 31, 1972

\$5770.24

THE DIOCESE ALSO HOLDS THE FOLLOWING SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

First Federal	\$1343.89
First Pennsylvania	904.82
	<u>\$2248.71</u>

TOTAL

\$8018.95

AUDIT - 1971 - 1972

General Account	\$ 2875.49
Missionary Account	2894.75
Book Balance	<u>\$ 5770.24</u>

Bank Balance	\$ 5780.24
Chk. #150 Not Clear	10.00
Balance	<u>\$ 5770.24</u>

Saving Account	\$ 1316.55
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Saving Certificate	\$ 904.82
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General Account	\$ 2875.49
Missionary Account	2894.75
Saving Account	1343.89
Saving Certificate	904.82
Total All Accounts	<u>\$ 8018.95</u>

Signed:

Rev. Paul Ropitsky
Paul S. Dutko
Russel Ruduski

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of two presiding officers for the assembly:
One lay - One priest Vice-President
One lay - one priest Secretary
3. Roll Call
4. Reading of Agenda
5. Reading of the minutes of the last assembly
6. Report of the Diocesan Archbishop
7. Report of the Secretary
8. Report of the Treasurer
9. Auditor's Report
10. Old Business:
 - a. Minimum salaries for priests
 - b. Group Insurance Plan
 - c. Old Age Home

S H O R T R E C E S S

- II. New Business:
 - a. Deanery Reports
 - b. Budget
 - c. Diocesan Center
 - d. Appointment of Delegates
12. Other Matters
13. Closing Prayer

V. Rev. Igumen Herman Swaiko, Secretary

ARCHDIOCESAN BUDGET

All spiritual, religious and charitable work, whether it be of an individual, of the parish or of the Archdiocese, requires the expenditure of physical energy and material resource. Every spiritual labor of the individual costs him physical, mental and spiritual energy. The total work of the Archdiocese is dependent on the individual and his energy -- of the Pastor, of the layman and especially of the Archpastor under whose hierarchical guidance the Archdiocese finds herself.

The Archdiocesan Budget is not only a barometer of the material and physical well-being and progress of the Archdiocese, but also of its spiritual, religious and charitable work and progress. As the work and programs of the Archdiocese increase greater demands are made on the material and spiritual resources of each individual in the Archdiocese, the Archbishop, the Pastor and the Laity.

The present Budget reflects the increasing demands that are being made on the Archdiocese which require an expansion of the programs and the administrative structure of the Archdiocese. In the past many of the proposed programs were not put into operation simply because the financial resources needed were not available. The past budgets were less than adequate to meet the expenses anticipated. However, because the Archdiocese had the free use of the facilities of St. Tikhon's Seminary and St. Tikhon's Monastery to house the Archdiocesan Residence and offices, it has been possible for us to function effectively even though the budget was not met.

The time has come for the Archdiocesan Budget to reflect more realistically the needs of the Archdiocese. The present Budget provides for the anticipated expansion of the Archdiocese with the election of an Auxiliary Bishop. If this Budget is to be^a useful barometer of the progress of the Archdiocese every individual member of the Archdiocese will have to carry his full share of the load. It is the duty of each parish representative, and its Pastor to carry the message to each Parish.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR DIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA AND PENNA.
1972 - 1973

INCOME:

Assessment to Church (Parish) per person members 18 years or older @ \$1.00	\$7000.00	
Proposed additional assessment per member @ \$1.00		7000.00

OTHER INCOME:

Missionary Fund Drive	2500.00	
Collections and Donations		1200.00
Bishop's Contingency Fund		
Collection to be taken on Sunday before St. Nicholas or during the time of Bishop's visit.		1000.00
		18700.00

MISCELLANEOUS INCOME: (Special)

Proceeds from banquet, program book, etc. in the formation of an Archdiocese	5000.00	
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TOTAL INCOME		23700.00
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EXPENSES:

<u>Salaries:</u>		
Archbishop	2400.00	
Bishop		2400.00
Secretary		600.00
		\$5400.00

RENTAL:

Seminary (Bishop Residence & Sec. Office)	1200.00	
Auxiliary Bishop Residence		600.00
		1800.00

TRAVELING EXPENSE:

Archbishop	1000.00	
Auxiliary Bishop		500.00
Diocesan Representatives		500.00
Metropolitan Council Representatives		500.00
		2500.00

OFFICE EXPENSE	1000.00	1000.00
TELEPHONE EXPENSE		500.00
		500.00

CONTINGENCY FUND

Archbishop	1000.00	
Auxiliary Bishop		500.00
		1500.00

MISSIONARY FUND	6000.00	6000.00
		18700.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE: (Special)

Banquet, Program Book, etc. incurred in the formation of an Archdiocese	5000.00	5000.00
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TOTAL EXPENSE		23700.00
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ARCHPASTORAL ADDRESS OF HIS EMINENCE, THE MOST REVEREND KIPRIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA.

Reverend Fathers and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,
Members of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of
Philadelphia and Pennsylvania:

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

I greet all of you on this day of our Diocesan Assembly in our Spiritual Center of Orthodoxy in the Monastery of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk.

Another year has passed by since our last Diocesan Assembly and thanks to Almighty God, all is in order within the Diocese. All pastors and rectors of our churches are fulfilling their pastoral and spiritual duties in accordance with their vocation and obligation before God and His Holy Church. We saw the fulfillment of the duties of the Bishop and Archpastor of the Diocese in keeping with the pledge made at the time of consecration to the holy office of Bishop and in accordance with the tradition handed down from the time of the Holy Apostles. Parishes were visited to see whether our spiritual children "are walking in the truth"(3 St. John 1,4).

On several occasions great numbers of believers assembled for divine services testifying to the faith of the spiritual children of our Diocese, especially the Molieben of the Triumph of Orthodoxy held in St. John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville and the other Lenten Mission Services held in parishes throughout the Diocese.

For the first time in our Diocese on Holy and Great Thursday, the ancient order of Washing of Feet took place in Saint Tikhon's Monastery Church. This was indeed a Banquet of Faith. On this day of the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, twelve priests concelebrated Pontifical Divine Liturgy and 28 priests approached the Table of Our Lord with the seminarians and many of the faithful participating. The service was televised.

The Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery was held on May 29th, the second day of the Feast of Pentecost. The Pontifical Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Ireney, Bishop Theodosius, myself and 16 priests. The theme of the Pilgrimage was "Pilgrimage for Peace" and was spiritually rewarding to all the thousands attending. The support of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese for this event was excellent.

The following ordinations, assignments and activities took place within our Diocese during the past year:

- February 26, 1972 - Seminarian Michael Sekela ordained to Diaconate
- March 4, 1972 - Deacon Paul Borick ordained to Holy Priesthood
- March 18, 1972 - Deacon Gregory Krutchek ordained to Holy Priesthood

V. Rev. Vladimir S. Borichevsky was released from his duties as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia and appointed as Dean of Academic Studies of St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary and attached to St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.

Rev. Michael Lepa was released from his duties as Rector of St. Mary's Church in Coaldale and entered St. Tikhon's Monastery.

Rev. Andrew Shuga was released from his duties as Rector of St. Basil's Church in Simpson and assigned as Rector of Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick.

Rev. Michael Michlik was released from his duties as Rector of Holy Resurrection Church in Alden Station and assigned as Rector of St. Mary's Church in Coaldale.

Rev. Rodion S. Kondratich was temporarily assigned to care for the spiritual needs of Holy Resurrection Church in Alden Station.

Rev. Rodion Laskowski was assigned as Rector of St. Basil's Church in Simpson.

Rev. Paul Borick was assigned as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia.

V. Rev. John Rachko was appointed to assist Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Apollon Nowitsky, Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, Pa. who had a serious operation after Pentecost and is recovering. He is expected to serve on July 9th, 1972.

V. Rev. Michael Kovach assisted with the spiritual needs of St. Michael's Church in St. Clair during the illness and hospitalization of the Rector, Rt. Rev. Andrew Slepecky.

Rev. Joseph Martin was assigned to care for the spiritual needs of Holy Ghost Church in Shenandoah after the illness and retirement of V. Rev. Andrew Fedetz.

Rev. Andrew Krell, at his request, was released of his duties as Rector of Holy Ascension Church in Lykens and attached to St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.

Rev. Michael Hatrak was temporarily assigned to care for the spiritual needs of Holy Ascension Church in Lykens.

St. Michael's Church in Philadelphia, because of the events connected with the Court Case, resolved to be incorporated as St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Church. The incorporation took place, the By-Laws of the Parish were confirmed by me and the entire congregation with their pastor, V. Rev. Alexander J. Fedoronko are working very hard to build the new church at 8598 Veree Road in Philadelphia.

The greatest event of the past year was the dedication and consecration of the Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Ireney and I with the participation of the Rector, V. Rev. Vladimir Petorak and many local and guest clergy took part in this great event. The cost of the new church was \$750,000.00 and the parish is debt free. The services were well attended and one thousand people attended the banquet.

On May 6, 1972 the dedication and blessing of the completely renovated St. Nicholas Church in Olyphant took place.

There were two Pastoral Conferences which were well attended and beneficial.

On May 30, 1972 the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America held a meeting at St. Tikhon's Monastery in the Library of St. Tikhon's Seminary. By decision of the Holy Synod, His Grace, The Right Reverend Theodosius, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska in accordance with the petition submitted was transferred as Bishop of Pittsburgh and West Virginia.

In accordance with the decision of the Holy Synod, V. Rev. Joseph Kreta, Rector of St. John Chrysostom Church in Woodside, New York was appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska. He will depart for Alaska after July 15th.

St. Michael's Church in Old Forge has announced their Mortgage Burning for October 29, 1972.

St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Baltimore, restored after destruction by fire, has announced dedication and blessing for late Fall 1972.

At the Diocesan Council meeting held on April 26, 1972, I announced that for the good of the Church an auxiliary bishop should be appointed to assist in the fulfillment of the functions of the Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania and that a Budget Commission and Diocesan Center Commission be established. It was the unanimous decision of the Diocesan Council that an Auxiliary Bishop be appointed for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. The Commissions were established and are to report their findings to this Assembly.

June 8th to June 29th I traveled to Poland. (see separate report)

Upon returning from Poland, I was very sorry to learn of the great damages caused by the Flood, especially in Edwardsville, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg and Lykens of our Diocese. Our only church that was damaged was St. John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville together with the Rectory. A complete report on the extent of the damages will be made to this Assembly. Many of our Orthodox Faithful suffered great losses. Rather than make a Flood Appeal immediately, it was my decision to wait until our Diocesan Assembly wherein we could act as a body. The Flood Appeal has been added to the Agenda. I did make an inspection of the church and rectory in Edwardsville.

We are constantly laboring for the promotion and welfare of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania and the Orthodox Church in America which can be accomplished only by the continued cooperation and support of the clergy and laity of our Diocese.

+ Kiprian,
KIPRIAN, Archbishop of Philadelphia
and Pennsylvania

VISIT TO POLAND

After Memorial Day I left with Rt. Rev. John Skvir and Hieromonk Sebastian to Poland where I was invited by His Beatitude, Vasili, Metropolitan of Warsaw and Poland as guest of him and the Orthodox Autocephalous Church in Poland. It was a most interesting visit and we had the opportunity to visit almost all of the places from where our fathers and forefathers came to this country. Father Skvir visited Lemkovschyna in Poland and Zaczarnie in Czechoslovakia where many relatives of the faithful of our church are living. Father Sebastian visited places near Zeilona Gora where many people of Lemkovschyna live. All of us visited the Eastern Part of Poland where the majority of the population is of the Orthodox Faith.

We served at the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene. After Divine Liturgy a Molieben before the Icon of the Blessed Mother of God of Pochaev was served. At the conclusion of the service we were greeted by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Vasili and he presented me as a blessing from the Cathedral and himself the Icon of the Blessed Mother of God of Cholm. In turn, I acknowledged his warm greetings and expressed my joy in being able to return to the country where I was born and to the Cathedral where as a student of the University of Warsaw and then as a priest I prayed. I presented to His Beatitude as blessings from our Orthodox Church in America an Icon of St. Herman with a part of his relics.

My visit to Cholm shall long be remembered. It was my first return visit to the city of my birthplace since leaving during the World War I in June of 1915. One can understand the feelings in my heart as we approached this ancient city which in the 13th Century was the capitol city of Prince Daniel Romanovich, the Prince of the powerful Principdom of Volinia and Galitia. At present there is only one church - St. John the Divine and the Orthodox population of this city is very small. We visited many places which I remembered from childhood and most interesting was the opportunity to visit the former Theological Seminary where I was born and to see the house where we lived and the park and courtyard where we played as children.

Saturday evening we celebrated the All Night Vigil. On Sunday we celebrated Divine Liturgy followed by a Molieben to the Holy Theotokos and to St. John the Divine with a procession around the church and the reading of the Gospels. A procession escorted me to and from church where I was greeted with flowers. A dinner concluded my visit to Cholm.

During the last week of our visit we traveled to the Eastern Part of Poland. First we visited the city of Bialystok where there was a short service at St. Nicholas Cathedral and we were greeted by Bishop Nikanor. We traveled with His Beatitude Metropolitan Vasili to several churches where we found people waiting and I was greeted by priests that I knew during the time of my service in the Diocese of Grodno before World War II. Very impressive was our visit to Zerchitzky whose Rector I remembered from the day of his ordination in 1935 and whom I tutored during his first services. Although it was late when we approached the church, it was overflowing with people who greeted us very warmly with flowers. Following a short Molieben to the Theotokos, it took more than an hour to give the blessing to the people. The procession from the church to the rectory was a most remarkable sight. The people lined both sides of the street holding lighted candles and while I gave them the blessing from the rectory porch, they sang *Eis Polla Eti Despota*. After being served refreshments in the rectory of wild strawberries from the forest, we started the last point of our visit, the Convent on the Hill of Grabarka.

Although it was very late in the evening, the nuns and Mother Igumenia Barbara were waiting for us. Since prior to the World War II there was no permanent priest assigned to the Convent and there were no regular services. Many years ago there was a great plague and some people climbed to the top of the hill with a cross asking God to stop the plague. Since then on the Feast of Transfiguration people climb this hill bearing crosses and place them in the cemetery and the number of crosses increases each year. We stayed for the night, attended Divine Liturgy in the morning and then left for the Monastery of St. Onufrius the Great in Yablochyn.

The foundation of this monastery dates back to the XIV Century. During the time of the Unia it was the fortress of Orthodoxy and never became Uniate. There is found the Icon of St. Onufrius which is venerated by the faithful. Prior to World War I there were many monks and there was a school for choirmasters, psalmreaders and there was an orphanage. During World War I the Monastery was evacuated and the Icon of St. Onufrius was also. After the war not many of the brotherhood returned but there was some monastic life in between the wars and once again there was a school for deacons and psalmreaders but the Icon of St. Onufrius did not return until 1959.

On June 25th, the Patron Feast Day of the Monastery, St. Onufrius the Great, the Monastery holds a pilgrimage as we do in St. Tikhon's with thousands of people attending. Although it rained Saturday and Sunday, a great number of faithful came and the church was filled to capacity. During the All Night Vigil the rain stopped and there was a procession around the church during the Litya. The Cathedral Choir and the Seminarians Choir sang responses for the service which lasted nearly four hours. The priests continued to annoint the faithful with the blessed oil long after the service had ended.

The Pilgrimage was full of prayer services. At Midnight it was an Akathist, at 2:00 a.m. the First Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Vasili, at 5:00 a.m. the Second Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Nikanor and at 10:00 a.m. the late Divine Liturgy celebrated by myself. The services were most inspiring with beautiful singing and warm prayers spiritually uplifting to all. There were many people to Holy Communion. In conclusion I joined the other two hierarchs for a Molieben.

In the evening we returned to Warsaw and prepared to return home. During our visit to Warsaw, I visited the Orthodox Section of Christian Theological Academy, Orthodox Theological Seminary and I was a guest of honor at the first session of the Pastoral Conference held at the Theological Seminary.

Thanks be to Almighty God for all.

Archbishop Kiprian

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Diocesan Council held three meetings:

November 8, 1971. Resolved. "...the St. Andrew the Apostle Church Fire Fund be closed. The Secretary was instructed to send a check in the amount of \$497.63 with the stipulation that the monies be used to buy something for the church and not to be applied to outstanding debts."

Resolved. "In the future any church desiring to be exempted from paying the Diocesan Assessment, must make a formal request in writing to the Diocesan Council and such request would be acted upon accordingly."

February 29, 1972. Resolved. The date of the Diocesan Assembly was announced for July 8, 1972 and the Agenda drawn.

Resolved. The Diocesan Council should meet four times a year - quarterly.

April 26, 1972. His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian, in accordance with Section 5 of Article VI of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, advised the Diocesan Council that for the good of the Church an Auxiliary Bishop should be appointed to assist in the fulfillment of the functions of the Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

Resolved. It was the unanimous decision of the Diocesan Council that an Auxiliary Bishop be appointed for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

A Budget Commission was appointed and charged with preparing a budget and presenting necessary resources from which funds will be derived to cover salaries, housing and operating expenses for the Diocesan Center.

A Diocesan Center Commission was appointed and charged with investigating the possibility of making use of the facilities of St. Tikhon's Children's Home for housing and offices.

Both Commissions are to report to the Diocesan Assembly on July 8, 1972.

All parishes were notified to make the Diocesan Missionary Fund Collection on February 27, 1972.

Three reminders were sent to all parishes concerning their financial obligations to the Orthodox Church in America and the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

In accordance with the Resolution made at the Diocesan Assembly held on July 10, 1971, the parishes on several occasions were reminded to send in the following reports to the Office of the Bishop:

Copy of Annual Parish Meeting, Copy of the Annual Financial Statement, Mailing List of all parishioners, Number of Baptisms, Number of Marriages, Number of Deaths, Number of Converts, Number of parishioners lost through mixed marriages and other reasons.

There were two Pastoral Conferences held at St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery:

November 18/19, 1971

June 1/2, 1972

The resignation of William Conco, lay representative to the Diocesan Council, was accepted. He was unable to attend any of the meetings that were held.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Igumen Herman Swaiko

V. Rev. Igumen Herman Swaiko, Secretary
Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

WILKES-BARRE DEANERY OF THE PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE

Report for the Diocesan Assembly

July 8, 1972

General

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery includes 16 parishes in Northeastern Penna. Six Deanery meetings and one emergency meeting were held since last report.

Lenten Missions

The Diocesan Sunday of Orthodoxy was held in the Deanery at St. John's Church Edwardsville. The Deanery coordinates Mission Vespers during Great Lent. In order to visit all parishes the Deanery was divided into two groups. 12 parishes were visited.

Publications

Available from the Deanery are the prayerbook with English and Slavonic texts and the pamphlet The Blessing of Motherhood.

The Deanery News sponsored jointly by the Wilkes-Barre and Frackville Deaneries was published monthly until this past winter when it was decided to publish quarterly. The editors are Fathers John Chupek and John Sorochnka.

Dedications and Blessings

The new rectory in Berwick was blessed last July. The new Holy Resurrection Cathedral was dedicated in April. The newly remodeled and refurbished St. Nicholas Church, Olyphant, was rededicated in May.

Projects

The Deanery sponsored a Scholarship Dinner-Dance in October at which time 3 Seminary scholarships of \$300.00, \$200.00 and \$100.00 were awarded to seminarians of the deanery. The scholarships are awarded according to the following conditions: First and foremost-academic standing; second-economic; third-recommendation of the pastor.

The second annual Scholarship Awards Dinner-Dance will be held on Sunday, October 8, RuVal Longe, route 6, Dickson City, Pa.

Miscellaneous

\$600.00 worth of books were purchased and presented by the Deanery to Saint Tikon's Seminary Library and also a check for \$400.00 to the librarian to be used for the future purchase of needed books.

Applications for scholarships from seminarians in the Deanery are being accepted by the Deanery office.

New Priest in Deanery

Father Rodion Laskowsky was assigned to Saint Basil's of Simpson.

Transfer of Priests within Deanery

Father Andrew Shuga was transferred to Holy Annunciation, Berwick.

Recent Flood

A complete report of the flood damage done to Orthodox Churches along the Susquehanna River is unknown because of the lack of telephone service. It is known that the Edwardsville church and rectory were inflicted much damage and many parishioners suffered great losses. The churches in Wilkes-Barre and Nanticoke were spared but some members of these parishes were hit very hard by the rampaging waters. The Greek Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre and many parishioners suffered greatly.

Deanery Officers

Father George Pawlush, Dean
Father Daniel Donlick, Treasurer
Father Rodion Kondratich, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. George Pawlush, Dean.

- July 8, 1972

Rev. Michael Michlik, pastor of the Nativity of the Theotokos Church in Coaldale, is the newly assigned priest in our deanery. Rev. Michael Hatrak, pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Church, Minersville, is also administering and servicing the Holy Ascension Church in Lykens. There are 8 priests serving 11 churches in the deanery. In cooperation with the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, the Deanery News is still being published and distributed at all parishes at specific times during the year.

RETIREMENT CLERGY - Rt. Rev. Andrew Fedetz, retired and residing in Shenandoah, and his matushka celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last May at a family reunion that was arranged by their children, other relatives and friends. Fr. Andrew also celebrated his 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood.

V. Rev. George Yankevich moved with his matushka from Lancaster to the Johnstown area last May. V. Rev. Paul Pianovich is still residing with his matushka near their son's home (Dr. Alexander Pianovich) in Lykens.

Christ The Saviour Church, Harrisburg, is the first parish in the deanery to celebrate the immovable feasts according to the "revised calendar."

Deanery lenten mission services were held in Frackville, Centralia, McAdoo, Coaldale, Minersville, Lykens, Mt. Carmel, Harrisburg, and in the two St. Clair churches.

V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar, representing the deanery attended the annual pastoral congress on June 12-14 at St. Andrew's Camp near Syracuse, N.Y.

FLOOD - The Holy Ascension Church in Lykens and the rectory had water in the basements, otherwise there was no other major damage. Most parishioners were evacuated and some of their homes and possessions were severely damaged or lost.

A number of families belonging to Christ The Saviour Church in Harrisburg received water damage in their basements. The church and rectory remained dry. Parishioners and neighbors in the area used the church well when the city water supply was cut off. The parish gave food and old clothes to the needy, and helped with the cleanup.

It should be pointed out that V. Rev. Daniel Hubiak, secretary-treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, after trying to reach Harrisburg by phone for days, offered aid in behalf of the Orthodox Church in America to Orthodox people who needed help.

AMERICAN ORTHODOX DAY -

Last July 18, the Frackville Deanery presented a concert by the Anthracite Balalaika Orchestra directed by Stephen Rudawski assisted by the chorus - it was done gratis. Vespers was served first by the deanery priests and the a cappella choir composed of singers representing most parishes sang the responses. Two \$100 Scholarships were awarded to deanery students.

This year, July 16, 1972, three \$100 Scholarships will be offered to deanery students after the 2 p.m. vespers which will be served again in the Ballroom at Lakewood Park in Barnesville near Mahanoy City. To get to the park, take Rt. 81 to the Hometown Exit.

The evening before American Orthodox Day on Sat. July 15 a Big Polka Party featuring three renown area bands will be held at the ballroom in Lakewood Park beginning at 8 p.m.

Priests of our diocese are asked to announce to their parishioners the Polka Party and the Vespers. Everyone is invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
V. 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