

DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

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 and welcome all of you who have gathered at our Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk on the occasion of the Annual Diocesan Assembly.

Many events have taken place since our last Diocesan Assembly and I would like to outline those events in this Address this morning.

During Archpastoral visitations it was very pleasing to see the great numbers of people attending divine services and especially during the Triumph of Orthodoxy services held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Philadelphia and Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, as well as the Lenten Mission Services held in parishes throughout the Diocese which testified to the faith of the spiritual children of our Diocese. Once again on Holy Thursday the ancient Service of Foot-Washing was held at our Monastery with many of the clergy and faithful participating.

The following events took place within our Diocese during the past year:

1974

- August 3rd - I blessed the corner stone of the National F.R.O.C. Building in Wilkes-Barre.
- August 15th - Priest Dionysius Swencki was appointed Acting Rector of St. Herman of Alaska Church in Morton, Pa.
- August 25th - The Annual Patronal Feast of the St. Tikhon Monastery was celebrated with the clergy and faithful of the Diocese participating.
- September 1st - Burning of the mortgage for the St. John the Baptist Church Educational Auditorium in Mayfield, Pa.
- September 7th - I consecrated and dedicated the new St. Stephen Church in Philadelphia and elevated the church to the status of Cathedral.
- September 8th - Hieromonk Roman (Serdynski) fell asleep in the Lord in Philadelphia and was buried at St. Tikhon Monastery. The hierarchs and clergy, as well as many of the faithful of the Diocese participated in the services.
- November 10th - I consecrated the new chapel dedicated to the Archangel Michael at St. Stephen Cathedral in Philadelphia.
- November 17th - Vladyka Herman and I dedicated and blessed the new F.R.O.C. Father Prislopsky Memorial Building in Wilkes-Barre.

December 9th St. Herman of Alaska Church in Morton and the Mission of St. Mark in Doylestown were assigned to the Philadelphia Deanery. St. Herman Church in Shillington was assigned to the Frackville Deanery.

I wish to acknowledge with great thanks all of our venerable clergy and faithful for their many expressions of concern and assurances of prayers during my hospitalization and brief illness during the month of January. By God's grace, I was able to quickly resume my full schedule of services, classes and work for our Holy Church.

February 22-23, 1975

We were honored to have within our Diocese a delegation of Representatives from the Orthodox Church and other Christian Churches in Russia on February 22nd and 23rd.

The delegation attended the All Night Vigil on Saturday at St. Tikhon Monastery which was followed by a dinner given in their honor at the Seminary.

On Sunday, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was con-celebrated in the Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre by the Representatives from the Patriarchate of Moscow, the Patriarchate of Georgia and the Orthodox Church in America with responses sung by St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir. A testimonial Banquet followed at the Sheraton Inn in Scranton with approximately 500 people in attendance.

Our visitors were deeply moved and most appreciative of the fine manner in which they were received.

The members of the Testimonial Banquet Committee are most grateful to the Hierarchy, Clergy and Faithful of our Diocese for their fine support in making this historic event in our Diocese a great success.

- May 24th - Vladyka Herman blessed the new rectory of the Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown.
- May 26th - The 71st Annual Pilgrimage to our St. Tikhon's Monastery was held with the theme of the Pilgrimage as Partake! Rejoice! Proclaim! In addition to the two Hierarchical Liturgies, many services were conducted throughout the day which were well attended considering the weather conditions.
- June 1st - Priest John Matusiak was appointed Acting Rector of the St. Herman Church in Shillington.
- July 1st - Priest Theodore Boback was relieved of his duties as Rector of St. Basil Church in Simpson and released from the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania to become Chaplain in the U.S. Army.

Priest Michael Lepa was assigned to care for the spiritual needs of the St. Basil Church in Simpson until such time that a new Rector is assigned.

- July 1st - Priest Peter Telencio was relieved of his duties as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Coatesville and released from the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania to become Chaplain in the U.S. Army.
- July 15th - Priest Paul Borick released as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia.
- Hieromonk Sebastian (Gyza) from St. Tikhon's Monastery was assigned to care for the spiritual needs of St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia until such time that a new Rector is assigned.
- Archpriest Michael Rachko was assigned as Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Coatesville.
- August 1st - Accepted retirement of Mitred Archpriest Andrew S. Slepecky and relieved him of his duties as Rector of St. Michael Church in St. Clair.
- Priest Paul Borick was appointed Rector of St. Michael Church in St. Clair.
- Announced the resignation of my personal secretary and the appointment of Archpriest Daniel Donlick to that position.
- Priest John Matusiak was appointed to the Department of Religious Education as acting Co-ordinator; Priest Rodion Kondratich was placed in charge of Special Collections.
- Announced that Vladyka Herman was appointed the temporary Administrator of the Diocese of San Francisco by the Holy Synod which met in July and approved the request of Archbishop Vladimir of San Francisco to enter an indefinite leave of absence due to illness.
- 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.

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+ KIPRIAN, Archbishop of Philadelphia
and Pennsylvania

1975
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Report of the Secretary

Since the last Diocesan Assembly (June 22, 1974) the Diocesan Council held five Meetings:

September 24, 1974: Announced that the DIOCESAN HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM with Blue Cross and Blue Shield became effective on August 1, 1974. Mr. Russell Dugan will manage this Insurance Program for the Clergy of the Diocese.

RESOLVED: "...a newsletter listing all official activities and news of the Diocese will be prepared periodically by the Diocese for distribution to the Faithful of the Diocese."

December 5, 1974: RESOLVED: "After considerable discussion concerning the duties and responsibilities of the Diocesan Treasurer, it was decided ...that the Diocesan Treasurer receive a gift of \$100.00 for Christmas and starting next year, January 1975, the Treasurer is to receive a payment of \$50.00 per month."

Announced: "His Grace, Bishop Herman reported that the Orthodox Church in America will sponsor a Youth Conference at St. Tikhon's Seminary in 1976. The support and help of the Diocesan Council will be needed in order to prepare for the Conference."

RESOLVED: The Council approved the Metropolitan Council request that each Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America be incorporated. His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian appointed the three Deans of the Diocese to serve on the Committee for Incorporation: Father George Pawlush, Wilkes-Barre Deanery; Father Joseph Martin, Frackville Deanery; and Father Nestor Geeza, Philadelphia Deanery. Father Pawlush was appointed Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED: In a motion made to express moral support to the Orthodox Church of Cyprus the following resolution was adopted: "Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania meeting in session at St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, on December 5, 1974 supports the autocephalous Church of Cyprus in its struggle for survival." It was also decided that the "faithful of the Diocese would be encouraged to participate in the clothing drive being conducted by the Greek Archdiocese."

March 4, 1975: RESOLVED: "...that the Charity Account monies be transferred to the Bishops' Discretionary Charity Fund which is in accordance with the Resolution adopted unanimously at the Forty-seventh Diocesan Council Meeting held on March 11, 1974 which reads as follows: '...the Diocesan Charity Fund which was originally established as the Bishop's Contingency Fund'...it was decided upon motion...that the distribution of the Charity Fund will be the responsibility of the Diocesan Hierarchy."

RESOLVED: that "The annual collection taken on the Sunday nearest the Feast of St. Nicholas is to be called the "Bishops' Discretionary Charity Fund".

RESOLVED: "...that the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania present the Metropolitan Council recommendation that each Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America provide \$100.00 per month for their respective Diocesan Bishop in order to help the National Church in the present financial situation to the All American Church Council (Sobor) for consideration."

RESOLVED: "...that the Diocesan Assembly will be held at St. Tikhon's Seminary on September 6, 1975. His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian announced that the Annual Pastoral Conference for all priests of the Diocese will be held at St. Tikhon's Seminary on September 5, 1975."

RESOLVED: "...that the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will extend the \$100.00 per month grant to the three Mission Parishes for the next six months."

July 14, 1975: RESOLVED: "...that the Treasurer is to notify all Parishes of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania concerning their present financial standing with both the National Church and the Diocese requesting a reply within 60 days in order for the Diocesan Council to take any action that may be necessary."

The Agenda for the Diocesan Assembly to be held on September 6, 1975 at St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, was prepared by the Members of the Diocesan Council and the Secretary was instructed to forward the information to all Parishes of the Diocese.

RESOLVED: "...that all Reports for the Assembly, Departmental and Deanery, are to be written reports and must be submitted to the Diocesan Secretary before September 5, 1975. All reports will be distributed at the Assembly."

August 11, 1975: RESOLVED: "...that the Diocese will extend the Diocesan Grant of \$100.00 per month for the next six months to the Mission Parish of St. Herman of Alaska, Morton, Pennsylvania and to the Mission of St. Mark, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. It was also noted that the Faithful of each Mission Parish are responsible for the National Church assessment in accordance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America."

RESOLVED: "...to adopt the budget for presentation to the Diocesan Assembly for approval and adoption for the year 1976."

RESOLVED: "...that a new census of the Parishes of the Diocese is to be taken and the results are to be presented to each Dean who will then submit this information to the Diocesan Archbishop. The census is to include a complete listing of all Parishioners in each Parish of the Diocese."

RESOLVED: "...that an Administrative Committee be formed to engage a heating Engineer to make a recommendation regarding the present heating system at the Diocesan Center and offer any suggestions and recommendations to the Council that would conserve heat and reduce costs for heating the Center."

RESOLVED: "...to establish administrative offices in the Diocesan Center for the Secretary and the various departments of the Diocese as required to operate the Diocese in an efficient manner."

RESOLVED: "...to place the following items on the Agenda for the Diocesan Assembly, to be held on September 6, 1975 in accordance with the request of the Philadelphia Deanery: the recommendation that the following be considered by the Assembly: "Exemption from diocesan assessments should be granted to individuals who are elderly, confined to institutions, bed-ridden, etc. and A fund be established to aid Parishes in construction programs."

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel K. Donlick

Archpriest Daniel K. Donlick,
Secretary

FRACKVILLE DEANERY

There are nine priests serving twelve parishes in the deanery. This year we welcome the parish of St. Herman to the fold. This is the first year this parish has a full time pastor - Rev. John Matusiak. We welcome Father and Matushka and son and May God Grant Them Many Years!

SCHOLARSHIPS:-- Two \$100.00 scholarships were awarded to two college students in the Frackville deanery this past year. Recipients of these scholarships are selected by drawing, and they are opened only to students of the Frackville deanery in their second year of college education.

MISSIONS: - Upon receiving the blessings of His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian, a Mr. Frank Sirpan, a parishioner of Christ the Saviour Church of Harrisburg began a feasibility study of forming an Orthodox parish in the Shippensburg-Chambersburg area with the cooperation of V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar.

RETIREMENT: The Rt. Rev. Andrew Slepecky of St. Clair - the parish of St. Michael's retired as of August 1, 1975. Fr. Andrews replacement at St. Michael's is the Rev. Paul Borick. We wish Fr. Paul and Matushka Many Years!

ACTIVITIES: The priest of the deanery participated in the visitation of the Russian delegation and presented gifts to them. They also participated in the annual Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration in Wilkes-Barre.

LENTEN MISSIONS: The majority of the parishes had lenten missions this past year. For the first time, the deanery had a combined Forgiveness Vespers Service which was well attended.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: The deanery is planning to venture into a Russian Day celebration with the promoters of the Bavarian Festival in conjunction with the Ethnic bicentennial celebration at Lakewood Park, Barnesville.

DEANERY MEETINGS: There were 5 meetings since the last diocesan assembly meeting.

ILLNESS: Rt. Rev. Gregory Stefchak of St. Mary's Church of St. Clair is presently confined to his home because of illness. His duties on the weekends are being fulfilled by the priestmonks from the Monastery. Also, the area clergy are helping with sick calls.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Joseph Martin

V. Rev. Joseph Martin, dean

Deanery officers are;

V. Rev. Joseph Martin, Dean

Rev. Michael Hatrak, Secretary

V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar, Treasurer

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Of The Philadelphia Diocese
Report for the Diocesan Assembly
September 6, 1975

General

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

Lenten Missions

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

Publications

The supply of prayerbooks is exhausted. Permission has been granted St. Tikhon's Religious Center to republish the book. The Deanery is still distributing the pamphlet "The Blessing of Motherhood." Three more pamphlets will be published in the near future.

Projects

One fund raising project for seminary scholarships was successfully held. A Church-School workshop was hosted at a local motel.

Donations and Grants

A donation of \$1,000.00 was presented to Saint Tikhon's Seminary. Two \$300.00 scholarships were awarded to deanery seminarians. A donation of \$700.00 was made to help defray the expense of the visiting clergymen from the Soviet Union. The Deanery sponsored the publication of one issue of the diocesan Newsletter which cost \$408.01.

Released

Father Theodore Boback was released as pastor of Saint Basil's Church, Simpson to enter into the Army Chaplaincy Service. He departed today for his first assignment at Fort Riley, Topeka, Kansas.

Mortgage Burning

The Saint John's RC Church Hall, Mayfield, mortgage burning was held last September.

Deanery Officers

Father George Pawluch, Dean
Father Andrew Shuga, Vice-Dean
Father Vladimir Fecho, Treasurer
Father John Chupek, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Father George Pawluch

PROPOSED BUDGET

January 1, 1976 - December 31, 1976

INCOME:

Assessment to Church (Parish) per person - members 18 years of age or older @ \$2.00	\$ 14,050.00
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OTHER INCOME:

Missionary Fund	\$ 2,700.00	<u>2,700.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 16,750.00

EXPENSES:

SALARIES:

Archbishop	\$ 2,400.00	
Bishop	2,400.00	
Secretary	600.00	
Treasurer	600.00	
Hospitalization (both Bishops)	<u>440.00</u>	\$ 6,440.00

RENTAL:

Seminary (Archbishop's residence, office and telephone expense)	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00
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DIOCESAN CENTER:

Electricity, oil, telephone	\$ 4,560.00	
Upkeep of Diocesan Center	400.00	
Furnishing of Diocesan Center	<u>400.00</u>	5,360.00

TRAVELING EXPENSES:

Diocesan Representatives	\$ 800.00	
Metropolitan Council Rep.	<u>400.00</u>	1,200.00

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS:

Religious Education, Youth, Retreats	\$ 250.00	250.00
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DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER:	\$ 750.00	750.00
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MISCELLANEOUS	100.00	100.00
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MISSIONARY FUND	\$ 2,700.00	<u>2,700.00</u>
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TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 17,800.00
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