

# DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## ADDRESS OF THE RULING BISHOP TO THE VENERABLE CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES OF THE 18TH ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Venerable Fathers and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

"The Grace of the Holy Spirit has assembled us today;  
having taken up Thy Cross we cry: Blessed is He that  
comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest!"

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania was deeply saddened when her ruling hierarchy, the ever-memorable, late Archbishop KIPRIAN, unexpectedly, fell asleep in the Lord on December 14, 1980. He served the Holy Orthodox Church for more than 50 years. Tireless and unselfish were his efforts and many accomplishments for the Orthodox Church in America and especially, for the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, which he served for more than 16 years and where he left an indelible mark. The love and respect that he gained for his dedicated labors was made known in the great number of Orthodox bishops, clergy and faithful, together with members of other Christian faiths and civil leaders, who attended his funeral and burial at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan. We pray that he will be granted "rest with the Saints where there is neither sorrow, nor sighing but life everlasting" and MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

Following my nomination as the candidate for the office of ruling bishop for the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and the formal confirmation and canonical election by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, I was installed into office by our Primate, His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS during a Molieben which was sung in the Orthodox Catholic Cathedral of St. Stephen in Philadelphia on Wednesday, April 29, 1981. Once again, I wish to express my profound gratitude to all of the members of the Installation Committee and the clergy and laity of this diocese for the memorable installation which was absolutely beautiful and outstanding.

Prayerfully and with great joy, I greet and welcome all of you who have come to South Canaan for the 18th Assembly of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. The foresight and preparation taken by my predecessor, coupled with the complete cooperation and concern of our Primate and the members of the Diocesan Council, made possible the smooth transition of my assuming the office of ruling bishop. I ask for your continued prayers for my ministry and express my firm hope for the continued success of our diocese in proclaiming to all nations the full gospel message of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"May Almighty God look mercifully upon this Diocesan Assembly, and send down into our hearts, our minds and our lips the spirit of wisdom, of understanding, of godliness, and of His fear; enlightening our minds with the light of His gracious understanding, that we may be adorned with all good works for the glory of His most holy Name."



Within the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, there are 41 parishes which includes two Mission Parishes (Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg and Elevation of the Holy Cross Church in Williamsport). All of the parishes have a full-time rector with the exception of the following:

Holy Trinity Church - Pottstown, PA - serviced by Diocesan Clergy  
St. Nicholas Church - Coatesville, PA - serviced by Rev. Andrew Goidich  
St. Vladimir Church - Lopez, PA - serviced by Rev. Michael Lepa

#### OFFICIAL ACTS since the 17th Diocesan Assembly

We are pleased to welcome into our diocese the following priests:

- V. Rev. Daniel Geeza - assigned as Rector of St. Stephen Orthodox Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA
- V. Rev. Michael Hutnyan - assigned as Rector of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Saint Clair, PA
- Rev. Joseph Woodill - assigned as Acting Rector of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Wilmington, DE

and pray they will be granted many years of fruitful service to the parishes to which they have been assigned and to our Diocese. To all of them we exclaim, MANY YEARS.

#### RETIRED:

On June 30, 1981, V. Rev. Alexander J. Fedoronko retired as Rector of St. Stephen Orthodox Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia. We express our thanks and appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to his former parish and for the great contribution he made to the Philadelphia Deanery and our Diocese. We pray that Almighty God will grant to Father and Matushka a joyful retirement and MANY YEARS.

#### TRANSFERS:

- Rev. Joseph Chupeck to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
- Rev. Paul Mayernick to the U.S. Military Chaplains
- Rev. James Jadick from St. Vladimir Church in Lopez to St. Herman Church in Shillington, PA
- Rev. Theodore Heckman from Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown to St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA (faculty)

With the establishment of the Diocese of Washington by the Holy Synod for our Primate, it was necessary that the pastor and parish of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Baltimore be transferred to that diocese. We are deeply indebted to Father Michael Sekela and the faithful of his parish for the great contribution they made to our diocese over the past years. We offer our thanks and wish them every success in the future. To Father Michael, his family and the faithful of St. Andrew the Apostle Church, we sing MANY YEARS.

#### APPOINTMENTS:

Priest John Kowalczyk was appointed to the Diocesan Council to fill the unexpired term of Priest Theodore Heckman upon his election as Dean.



Russell Dugan was appointed to the Diocesan Council to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Pelak.

At his request, we accepted the resignation of Archpriest Paul Ropitsky from the office of Diocesan Treasurer. We express our heartfelt thanks to Father Paul for his many years of dedicated service as the Diocesan Treasurer and sing to him MANY YEARS.

Following a study made by the Diocesan Council, it was resolved to combine the office of Secretary and Treasurer. Archpriest Rodion Kondratich was then appointed to this office. He is at the Chancery Office not less than one full day per week.

There will be no appointment of a Chancellor for our diocese. There will be an expansion of the responsibilities of the Deans. All parishes are asked to follow the chain of command in all matters that arise requiring additional assistance. The chain of command is: Rector, Dean, Diocesan Bishop. If at any time you are unable to reach the diocesan bishop at his office, contact the Diocesan Secretary.

The Deans, members of the Diocesan Council and members of the Diocesan Departments are to be commended for their dedication and the fine manner in which they fulfill their assigned responsibilities.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

At his request, Father Daniel Ressetar was relieved of his duties as Chairman of this department. We offer our gratitude to Father Daniel and look forward to his continued assistance as a member of this department. Father Theodore Heckman has been appointed the new Chairman of this department.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE - The Conference which was held in August at St. Tikhon's Seminary met with much success; however, it was disappointing in the poor participation by members of our own diocese. Many of our parishes continue to complain that they need choir directors and help with their choirs but refrain from active participation. We are grateful to those attending the Conference from outside of our diocese; but the Conference is sponsored to fulfill the needs of our diocese.

#### DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The annual Church School Teachers Conference will be held in October. During the Conference the problems submitted by the parishes on the questionnaire will be discussed. The parishes should be represented by the pastor and Church School Teachers.

ALTAR BOYS RETREAT - was held at St. Tikhon's Seminary and met with much success. Plans are under way for the Conference for 1982.

CONFERENCE FOR PRIEST WIVES - was held in two sessions at St. Tikhon's Seminary. It was the first such conference for our diocese and was favorably received by those in attendance. Plans are being formulated for the next one.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM - was held at St. Tikhon's Seminary with many of the children of our diocese participating. Several of the diocesan clergy presented lectures and conducted discussions with the children.



ANNUAL ADULT LECTURE SERIES - will be held at St. Tikhon's Seminary during the month of October. The Theme for the series is "Orthodoxy verses the American Way of Life. Lectures will be delivered by Metropolitan Theodosius, Bishop Dimitri, Bishop Basil and Bishop Nathaniel. Details will be sent to all parishes. PLAN TO ATTEND.

CONFERENCE ON LAY MINISTRY (Senior Citizens, Youth, men and women in the Church) - will be held on November 7, 1981. Details will be sent to all parishes. PLAN TO ATTEND.

Consideration will also be given to the following requests during the forthcoming year: Conference for Husband and Wives, Marriage Counseling Seminars and a Conference for Teenagers.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

One of our most recently established departments, it is meeting with much success through the dedicated efforts of the Chairman who is to be commended for his fine work in promoting our diocese and making Orthodoxy known to the non-Orthodox.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER - has met with favorable response. Printing today is very expensive; but the Newsletter is a vital means of communication and a way to reach the homes of all the faithful of our diocese. In order for this publication to continue, we must raise added funds for this department.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

As yet, this department is still within the developing stage within our diocese. Mr. Kenneth Bernstein, who also represents our diocese to the National Church, has been appointed to this department. There will be more news from this department in the near future.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS

The department continues to financially support Elevation of the Holy Cross Church in Williamsport. Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg is in the process of looking for land on which to build a church. As in all mission parishes, growth is slow in these parishes but spiritually they are well founded. The pastors and faithful of these parishes are to be commended for the fine work they are doing. All parishes are encouraged to give them your support.

The Diocese, through her departments, offers many services to the parishes and the faithful. All of the good work of the departments will be in vain, if the parishes do not make use of the available services. Do not hesitate to call on them if you are in need of any assistance.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL - On August 11-13, 1981, the Metropolitan Council, for the first time, was convened under a new expanded format with participation by the various administrative and consultative units of the Orthodox Church in America. The new format proved very successful with more than 100 people participating. Representing our diocese were: Bishop Herman (Pension Board); Archpriest Rodion Kondratich (Admin. Committee, Dept. of



External Affairs and Dept. of Religious Education); Priest Theodore Heckman (Dept. of Music); Priest Daniel Kovalak (Dept. of Missions); Kenneth Bernstein (Dept. of Stewardship); Russell Dugan (Metropolitan Council). Unfortunately, due to late scheduling of the meeting, Archpriest Joseph Martin and Don Motel were unable to attend.

CLERGY PENSION PLAN - The All American Councils of the Orthodox Church in America have mandated that all parish priests, choir directors and full time church workers be enrolled in the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan and the Group Term Life Insurance. The parish is responsible for the payment of its portion of the contribution to the Pension Plan and is responsible for the full payment of the premiums to cover the cost of the insurance. There was an unavoidable delay in dending out the insurance policies to the individual members which will be forthcoming shortly. We are pleased to announce that the OCA Pension Plan is a sound plan and as of August 1, 1981, the total invested funds of the Plan is \$953,730.12.

TERRITORIAL CHURCH AND DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS - Every parish, and not the individual, is assessed in accordance with the official diocesan census. Where there is a discrepancy, parishes are asked to get in contact with the Diocesan Treasurer for clarification and/or possible adjustment. Although remittances are coming in much better, there are still parishes that are waiting until after the end of the fiscal year to make payments which is in error. All parishes are asked to adopt the monthly payment plan as already adopted by many parishes. Monthly statements will be sent to all parishes. This is necessary in order that the diocese and the territorial church will have funds with which to operate.

CALENDAR QUESTION - A special Bishop's Commission (of which your bishop is a member) was appointed by the Holy Synod to study the Calendar Question and to present their report to the forthcoming Fall Session of the Holy Synod. During my archpastoral visitations, many of the faithful of our parishes have expressed their desire that the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America give serious thought and consideration to adopting the Revised Julian Calendar in order that there would be unity with regard to the celebration of Feast Days. They further expressed their views that parishes not be asked to take a vote on this issue but that merely a decision be rendered by the Holy Synod to prevent further disunity. Your diocesan bishop is in total agreement with the feelings as was expressed by these individuals and would favor such action at the earliest possible date.

PARISH BY-LAWS - It has been called to my attention that several of our parishes are in need of revising or adopting new parish by-laws. Any parish that is contemplating such an undertaking is asked to contact the Chancery Office for assistance in this matter.

#### BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Member of Permanent Lesser Synod               | (meet quarterly) |
| Member of Theological Board                    | (meet quarterly) |
| Chairman, Pension Board                        | (meet quarterly) |
| Diocesan Council Meetings                      | (quarterly)      |
| Diocesan Departmental Meetings                 | (quarterly)      |
| Meetings with Diocesan Deans                   | (quarterly)      |
| Member Orthodox Bishops of PA                  | (meet quarterly) |
| Rector, St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary      |                  |
| Local Bishop in Charge, St. Tikhon's Monastery |                  |



## ARCHPASTORAL PARISH VISITATIONS

Occasionally, due to the present shortage of clergy, it is necessary for me to serve those parishes where there is no priest available. For this reason, it has been difficult to prepare a long term visiting schedule. All parishes will be visited atleast once annually. Parishes that will have celebrations during the forthcoming year and wish to have the bishop participate, are asked to make their requests no later than September 25th that this may be taken into consideration when the schedule is being drafted.

During these visitations, arrangements could be made for the bishop to meet with the members of the parish council, Sisterhood, Brotherhoods or even the entire parish to have informal discussions or to answer any questions that may arise.

## FUTURE DIOCESAN ACTIVITIES

Tri-Centennial - City of Philadelphia - Labor Day Weekend, 1982

7th All American Council hosted by our Diocese in Philadelphia, 1983

## DIOCESAN CENTER

As we review the activity that took place over the past year within our diocese, we can readily see how much work has already been accomplished and how much more is still left undone. The many departments that have been established and the number of dedicated priests and members of the laity who have volunteered their services and are willing to sacrifice their time and efforts, proves our great concern for every area in the life of our diocese and the Church. We are and must be concerned about the clergy, the laity, the youth, the senior citizens, growth in every parish, establishing new churches and offering our Christian support to the communities in which we live.

Our diocese must assume the responsibility of making these services available to our faithful. There are many areas that we have not even touched upon and so much planning to do for the future. When we think negatively, we cause an unnecessary, temporary delay and fail to give support to those in need. Later, we realize that the project must be completed and at a much more expensive cost. We must be willing to think positively as did our forefathers who gave of themselves to establish the Orthodox Faith and to build for the future. The love for God and His Church and the generosity of the faithful of our diocese is expressed in the beautiful churches that have been constructed and the number of successful projects that have been accomplished. We must establish and develop a permanent Diocesan Center that we may continue to fulfill our responsibility of building up His Church.

The early response by the clergy and faithful of our diocese in supporting the development of the Diocesan Center has been very good. We trust that every adult member of the diocese will fulfill his responsibility to contribute to this worthwhile and very much needed project. We are asking for voluntary contributions in order to avoid the necessity of making an assessment and paying high interest costs. Phase I, the construction of the bishop's residence should be completed by the end of 1981. We call upon the clergy and the faithful of this diocese for your full support that the Building Committee may continue with their assigned task of developing the Diocesan Center.



Great and many can be our accomplishments wherein we will be in a position to do a great service to our Diocese, the Church and the Community. We must avoid clergy-laity division, geographical division, rivalry, suspicion and parochial division. Our doctrine must always be to reshape our lives so that, as ministers of reconciliation, we can be ambassadors of Christ.

We have a great task in the world today. The world is dominated by materialism and secularism. This is an open and direct conflict with Christ's teachings. We are responsible to confront these present philosophies in our territory, the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. There are several things to realize in the Diocese during the coming year: the unity of the diocese, the work of the diocese, our responsibility to the National Church and the permanent establishment and development of a Diocesan Center.

May Almighty God guide us as we seek to discern His will and with oneness of mind, harmony of spirit, good intention and wise action, make those decisions which will be for the benefit of His Holy Church.

Respectfully submitted;

*+Herman,*

+HERMAN,  
Bishop of Philadelphia  
and Eastern Pennsylvania

12 September 1981



**Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
Orthodox Church in America**

Chancery Office:  
P.O. Box 11  
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**Report of the Secretary to the Diocesan Council**

The following report outlines the highlights of the Diocesan Council Meetings held since the last Diocesan Assembly held at the Gus Genetti Motor Lodge, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on September 5th and 6th, 1980:

**The 71st Diocesan Council Meeting — October 21, 1980 — South Canaan, PA**

1. The Minutes of the Diocesan Assembly were presented to all those present and read by the Secretary. It was noted that "preceeding the Assembly on Saturday, September 6th, a special session was held on Friday, September 5th, concerning finances of the Orthodox Church in America with Mr. Richard Reidy, Treasurer, presenting the session."
2. Archpriest Robert Kondratich reported on the present status of the Diocesan Census program. It was noted that there are 8,134 Adults and 1,700 Children in the Diocese.
3. Priest Daniel Kovalak gave a report on the Department of Public Relations and the first issue of the "Diocesan Quarterly" which would be published during the first week of December.
4. Priest Dennis Swencki announced that there would be a Church School Teachers' conference during the winter months. Information concerning this would be forwarded to all clergy of the Diocese.
5. Priest Theodore Heckman gave a report concerning the Music Conference which was held during the month of August at St. Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary Complex. He stated that there would be an expanded program of Music offered to all levels of the parish community concerning music in the life of the church.
6. His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian noted that due to the absence of Mr. Stephen Pelak from all meetings of the Diocesan Council for the past year, he has decided to declare the seat vacant.
7. Mr. Russell Dugan was nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term.
8. Archpriest Paul Ropitsky and Archpriest Robert Kondratich will enter into further discussion with the Continental Data Processing Company as to the feasibility of monthly billing to all parishes of the Diocese for the National and Diocesan Assessment.
9. His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian announced that all Diocesan appointments would remain the same for the forthcoming year.

**The 72nd Diocesan Council Meeting — December 9, 1980 — Nanticoke, PA**

1. Priest Dennis Swencki announced that the Altar Boy Retreat will be held on April 10th and 11th at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, and that the annual Church School Teachers' conference would be held on August 22, 1981, also at the Seminary.
2. Priest Theodore Heckman announced that the annual Music Conference for the Diocese would be held on



August 7th and 8th, 1981, at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

3. Priest Daniel Kovalak stated that the new publication of the Diocesan Quarterly was well received by many in the Diocese. It was also stated that a special page would be added at least once a year to feature "Church and Home" of the Religious Education Department of the Diocese.
4. Priest Daniel Kovalak, our representative to the National Department of Missions of the Orthodox Church, gave a comprehensive report of the meeting which took place on December 8, 1980, in Syosset, New York.
5. Mr. Russell Dugan, Chairman of the Department of Insurance for our Diocese, gave a report stating that there would be a slight increase in the monthly premiums and that there are 103 participants in the Blue Shield/Blue Cross program.  

A special presentation took place concerning the future of having all of our membership covered in a special dental plan. After considerable discussion, Mr. Dugan was instructed to send the information to all those in the plan and for them to vote as to their choice for this special feature.
6. His Grace, Bishop Herman spoke about the full cooperation with all parishes of the Diocese in regards to the National and Diocesan Assessment. If there are any parishes with problems concerning this, the parish priest is to contact the Dean and then the Bishop.
7. His Grace, Bishop Herman stated that all priests in the Diocese must belong to the Pension Plan of the National Church and to the Diocesan Blue Shield/Blue Cross program.
8. It was decided that the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania would bid for the National All American Church Council which would be held in 1983. His Grace, Bishop Herman would investigate the possibility of this venture with representatives of the Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia, PA.

#### The 73rd Diocesan Council Meeting — January 22, 1981 — South Canaan, PA

1. It was noted that this was fortieth day anniversary of the death of our beloved archpastor, Archbishop Kiprian, who passed away on Sunday, December 14, 1980. Memory Eternal was sung.
2. His Grace, Bishop Herman welcomed His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius to the Diocesan Council Meeting and expressed the gratefulness of the Diocese for the love and attention by the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to the widowed Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.
3. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius announced that he has assumed the title and responsibilities as "LOCUM TENENS" of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and has appointed His Grace, Bishop Herman as the Administrator of the Diocese.
4. Archpriest Robert Kondratik read the instructions from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America for the election and nomination of a ruling hierarch for the Diocese.
5. Archpriest George Pawlush placed in nomination for a united voice of the members of the Diocesan Council the name of His Grace, The Right Reverend HERMAN, Bishop of Wilkes-Barre as the nominee to the Extra-Ordinary Diocesan Assembly, for the vacancy of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania of ruling hierarch. The nomination was seconded by Archpriest Vladimir Petorak. Adopted Unanimously.
6. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius appointed Priest Joseph Gallick and Mr. Donald Motel to the Credential committee of the extra-ordinary Diocesan Assembly.
7. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius announced that the extra-ordinary Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania will be held on Thursday, February 19, 1981, at the Cathedral of the Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to elect and nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy of ruling bishop of the diocese to the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America.
8. A budget adjustment was made by the Diocesan Council for the Administrator of the Diocese.



9. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius appointed a committee to review the situation of a permanent residence of the new Diocesan Hierarchy of the Diocese. His Beatitude appointed the executive committee of the Diocesan Council to review the possibility of building a new residence. The committee must make a report back to the members of the Diocesan Council for their deliberation and final action at the next meeting on February 19, 1981.
10. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius stated that the Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania would always be in residence at South Canaan, PA.
11. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius appointed Archpriest Robert Kondratich as the chairman of the installation festivities to take place on Wednesday, April 29, 1981.
12. It was decided that funds are needed for the installation festivities and a motion was made and seconded that each parish be asked to give one dollar per person on a pro-rated share formula in support of this Diocesan event. Motion Adopted.

#### The 74th Diocesan Council Meeting — February 19, 1981 — Wilkes-Barre, PA

1. The executive committee reported on meetings held with contractors who looked over the present Diocesan Home, which is rented from St. Tikhon's Seminary, and the former St. Tikhon's Orphanage Building, which is used as the Diocesan Center. It was the opinion of all after hearing the reports that with all the necessary repairs, it would be too costly to remodel, and then the home wouldn't belong to the Diocese.  
  
After serious discussion pertaining to this matter, it was decided to continue this discussion at the next Diocesan Council meeting which would be held on Monday, March 23, 1981.
2. His Grace, Bishop Herman stated that there was a possibility that some of our parishes may be released to the new Diocese of Washington. A full report will be given to the Diocesan Council after the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops.
3. Mr. Russell Dugan read a letter that he sent to all participants of Blue Shield/Blue Cross plan concerning the proposed Dental adjustment.
4. All diocesan parishes are to respond to the special appeal for the installation funds by March 15, 1981. The Diocesan Secretary is advised to send a letter to all parishes concerning this matter.

#### The 75th Diocesan Council Meeting — March 23, 1981 — Nanticoke, Pa

1. His Grace, Bishop Herman gave a full report to the members of the Diocesan Council on the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops which was held in Syosset, New York.
2. A discussion took place concerning the appointment of clergy and laity to the national departments, the calendar question, pension board, Pro-Cathedral in New York City and clergy guidelines for transfer.
3. Archpriest Robert Kondratich gave a full report to all aspects of the Installation of the new bishop of Eastern Pennsylvania on Wednesday, April 29, 1981.
4. Archpriest Paul Ropitsky gave a report on the parishes which have not yet responded to the special appeal for the installation. Father Ropitsky was directed by the Diocesan Council to write to each of the parishes involved.
5. A lengthy discussion took place concerning the possibility of building a new home for the Diocesan Hierarchy.

The Diocesan Council appointed Mr. Russell Dugan and Archpriest Vladimir Petorak as co-chairmen for the final report on the feasibility of fund raising, bids, and plans for construction.

A motion was made and seconded that we take all necessary steps in the execution and development of a new diocesan rectory for the ruling hierarchy of our diocese and the committee be empowered to arrange and



negotiate with a contractor to begin as soon as possible. Motion Adopted.

6. The date of the Diocesan Assembly was set for Saturday, September 12, 1981.
7. Mr. Russell Dugan gave a comprehensive report as to the results of the vote taken for the additional dental coverage. 112 are eligible and that 58% of the participants responded. Of those 72% agreed to the new plan. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Dugan would meet with His Grace, Bishop Herman to discuss the results and report back to the council for their final decision.
8. His Grace, Bishop Herman stated that all permission for the blessing of the second marriage must go through the office of the Diocesan Bishop. No priest has the right or authority to grant permission on his own.
9. His Grace, Bishop Herman appointed Father Dean Pawlusch, Father Dean Martin and Father Dean Heckman as a committee to study the guidelines for clergy salaries and to recommend to the next meeting of the Diocesan Council their findings for consideration to the Diocesan Assembly in September of 1981.

#### **The 76th Diocesan Council Meeting — June 15, 1981 — South Canaan, PA**

1. His Grace, Bishop Herman announced the resignation of Archpriest Paul Ropitsky as the Diocesan Treasurer effective as of June 30, 1981.
2. The office of Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Treasurer will be combined as of July 1, 1981.
3. Mr. Russell Dugan presented all facts and figures concerning the voting for the Dental Plan that would be included in our present Diocesan Plan. After careful discussion it would be necessary for Mr. Dugan to present the complete report to the Diocesan Assembly for their final deliberation of this matter.
4. Archpriest Robert Kondratick reported that a meeting with representatives from the National Church Chancery, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and the Franklin Plaza Hotel will take place on Thursday, July 25th concerning the forthcoming All-American Church Council to take place in 1983.

#### **The 77th Diocesan Council Meeting — July 7, 1981 — South Canaan, PA**

1. All plans for the construction of a new bishop's residence were presented by the executive committee.
2. The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, having heard the report of the Special Committee pertaining to the residence for the diocesan bishop and their meeting with the contractor and following thorough review and discussion and in consultation with the approval of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, and upon the recommendation and motion by the Building Committee, seconded by Archpriest Joseph Martin, it was unanimously adopted by the members of the Diocesan Council that the contract be awarded to International Custom Built Homes, Inc. (Allentown, PA) to begin construction of a Bishop's residence on the parcel of land which has been designated to be used for the Diocesan Center for the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania on July 15, 1981 and a Building Fund Drive be initiated for the promotion and development of the Diocesan Center and all funds received to be earmarked accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



Archpriest Robert S. Kondratick  
Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer



REPORT OF THE FRACKVILLE DEANERY TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF PHILADELPHIA AND  
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA - 1981 - SOUTH CANAAN, PENNSYLVANIA

The deanery consists of 12 parishes serviced by 9 full time prists.  
This past year the clergy met on a deanery level three times.

During the year the deanery received two new priests: Rev. Mark Shinn was assigned to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church in Coaldale and Rev. James Jaddick was assigned to St. Herman's Church of Shillington.

The majority of the parishes had a lenten mission Service during the past Great Lenten Season. This year the site of the Sunday of Orthodoxy Service was in the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church of Coaldale.

The annual Frackville Deanery Family Day Picnic was held in Angela Park during July. There were over 100 faithful in attendance.

OFFICERS:

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Dean      | V. Rev. Joseph Martin, McAdoo    |
| Secretary | Rev. Mark Shinn, Coaldale        |
| Treasurer | Rev. Michael Hatrak, Minersville |



Diocesan Assembly, St. Tikhon's Seminary, September 12, 1981

#### REPORT OF THE PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

The Philadelphia Deanery presently consists of 10 parishes. The parish of St. Andrew's in Baltimore this year was incorporated into the new diocese of our Metropolitan: Washington, D.C. Three O.C.A. "ethnic" parishes in Philadelphia (2 Albanian and 1 Romanian) have been included as much as possible at meetings and functions of the Philadelphia Deanery. It is our sincere hope that these parishes can be fully incorporated into the deanery at the earliest possible time.

Since the 17th Diocesan Assembly of Sept. 5-6, 1980, four deanery meetings were held: Dec. 4, 1980, at Pottstown; Mar. 2, 1981, at St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem; July 23, 1981, at Pottstown; and Aug. 17, 1981, at Fr. John Rachko's residence, Bethlehem.

A successful teacher-parent church school conference was sponsored by the Deanery on September 20, 1980, at Holy Assumption Church in Philadelphia. The conference theme was: "Feast Days of the Church." Speakers were Miss Constance Tarasar, of the Department of Religious Education; and Fr. Theodore Heckman. Fr. John Kowalczyk was organizer and host.

New officers of the deanery were elected at the December 4 meeting:

Fr. Theodore Heckman, dean

Fr. John Kowalczyk, secretary

Fr. Dimitri Voytilla, treasurer

His Grace, Bishop HERMAN, and the Very Rev. Rodion Kondratich were present and addressed the meeting. Subsequently the new officers were approved by His Eminence, Archbishop KIPRIAN.

The deanery, along with the whole Church, mourned the unexpected death of His Eminence, Archbishop KIPRIAN, who departed this life on December 14, 1980. On Monday, December 15th, the body of His Eminence was brought to St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia. At 8 p.m. His Grace, Bishop HERMAN led the clergy and faithful of the deanery in a Parastas. Although the weather was inclement, the cathedral was filled with mourners. Fr. Theodore Heckman delivered a eulogy.

Mission Services during the Great Fast were held in the following parishes: SS. Peter & Paul (Albanian) Church, Philadelphia; St. Herman of Alaska Church, Wallingford; St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia; St. John Chrysostom (Albanian) Church, Philadelphia; St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem; St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia; and Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown. There has been a significant increase in the interest in and attendance at the Lenten Missions in the past few years.

Clergy and lay delegates from the Philadelphia Deanery gathered with delegates from the whole diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania at a special Assembly on February 19, 1981, at Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre to elect a new diocesan bishop. The Philadelphia Deanery was also highly pleased to host the Installation of His Grace, Bishop HERMAN, on Bright Wednesday, April 29th, 1981, at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia. More than 500 people attended the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Rite of Installation.



During the past year, the following pastoral changes took place:

1) Fr. Joseph Chupeck of St. Michael's Church, Newark, Delaware, was transferred at his request to the Diocese of New York & New Jersey. The Rev. Joseph Woodill was appointed rector of the parish on April 1st, 1981.

2) The V. Rev. Alexander Fedoronko of St. Stephen's Cathedral retired from his parish duties on June 30th. The V. Rev. Daniel Geeza, formerly of the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania, was appointed rector of the Cathedral on July 1st, 1981.

Fr. Eugene Vansuch of St. John Chrysostom Church, working closely with our diocesan secretary, Fr. Kondratick, with Archpriest Daniel Hubiak, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and Mr. Richard Reidy, treasurer, assisted in securing the details which led to a successful bid for sponsorship of the forthcoming Seventh All-American Council. The Metropolitan Council in its August meeting acted favorably on the request of our diocese to sponsor the 1983 All-American Council at the Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia. The Chancellor, the Treasurer, and other members of the Metropolitan Council expressed high praise at the diligent work and enthusiasm of Fr. Vansuch and Fr. Kondratick and of the Diocese in general. [Final approval of the Council site rests with the Holy Synod.]

At the request of His Grace, Bishop HERMAN, Fr. Heckman was transferred from his parish duties in Pottstown to full-time instructor at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan--effective September 1st. The parish in Pottstown is presently vacant. His Grace, Bishop HERMAN, will appoint an interim dean of the Philadelphia Deanery pending a regular election.

The deanery is planning its annual teacher-parent church school conference--to be hosted by St. Stephen's Cathedral. Fr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Daniel Geeza, and Fr. Joseph Woodill are the planning committee for the conference.

- Submitted by Fr. Theodore Heckman



W I L K E S - B A R R E   D E A N E R Y  
Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Penna.  
Diocesan Assembly Report  
September 12, 1981

GENERAL

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery includes 17 parishes in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Two Deanery meetings were held since the last report.

LENTEN MISSIONS

The Archbishop and Bishop coordinated Mission Vespers during Lent. This year all of the priests of the Deanery participated in five Vesper services instead of dividing in two groups each Sunday as in years past. Sunday of Orthodoxy was celebrated at Saint Mary's Church Coaldale. Churches not visited in 1981 will be visited in 1982.

PUBLICATIONS

A supply of the pamphlet "The Blessing Of Motherhood", prepared for mothers-to-be, is still available at 10¢ per copy. A three fold pamphlet entitled "To Help You To Pray", published two years ago, is still being distributed free-of-charge to the sick in the hospitals and homes by the clergy of the Deanery. Six other three fold pamphlets, produced under the supervision of Father Daniel Kovalak, are still available free-of-charge to the faithful of the Deanery.

VISUAL AID & CASSETTE LIBRARY

The visual and cassette library of the Deanery was expanded with new additions this past year. Father David Lisko of Olyphant coordinates all distribution. First consideration is given to the parishes of the Deanery.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are still available for third semester Deanery seminarians. There were no applicants in 1980-1981.

BISHOPS INSTALLATION

A bus to Bishop Herman's installation in Philadelphia was sponsored by the Deanery. A gift was presented to Bishop Herman on behalf of the Deanery.

PROJECTS

A "Bakeless Bake Sale" was conducted by the Deanery. Unfortunately all parishes did not respond. The money received is to be used for scholarships for Deanery seminarians and future publication of pamphlets. We ask the support of all delinquent parishes of the Deanery.

BISHOP'S NEW RESIDENCE

A report was made concerning the construction of Bishop Herman's new home. All comments made were favorable.

DEDICATION-CONSECRATION

The priests of the Deanery participated in the dedication-consecration of Saint Alexis Chapel of Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

DEANERY OFFICERS

Father George Pawlusch, Dean  
Father Andrew Shuga, Vice Dean  
Father Vladimir Fetcho, Treasurer  
Father Michael Evans, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,  
Father George Pawlusch.



# DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
P.O. BOX 11  
SOUTH CANAAN, PENNSYLVANIA 18459  
(717) 937-4686

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR DIOCESE - 1982

### EXPENSES:

#### Salaries

|                         |                |             |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Bishop Herman           | \$9600.00      |             |
| Pension for Bishop      | 1584.00        |             |
| Blue Shield/Blue Cross  | 648.00         |             |
| Social Security         | 900.00         |             |
| Diocesan Secretary      | 1800.00        |             |
| Diocesan Treasurer      | 1800.00        |             |
| Bishops Travel Expenses | <u>3000.00</u> | \$19,332.00 |

#### Diocesan Center - Chancery and Residence

|                    |               |           |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Oil                | 3000.00       |           |
| PP&L (electric)    | 4800.00       |           |
| Telephone          | 840.00        |           |
| Gas                | 200.00        |           |
| Insurance          | 1000.00       |           |
| Center Maintenance | <u>800.00</u> | 10,640.00 |

#### Traveling Expenses

|                               |                |          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Diocesan Council (5 meetings) | 850.00         |          |
| Metropolitan Council          | <u>1000.00</u> | 1,850.00 |

#### Diocesan Departments and Projects

|                                   |               |          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Department of Public Relations    | 1600.00       |          |
| Newsletter (4 issues)             | 4929.00       |          |
| Department of Religious Education | 1000.00       |          |
| Department of Stewardship         | <u>250.00</u> | 7,779.00 |

#### Miscellaneous

1869.00      1,869.00

#### Office Supplies, Printing and Postage

2000.00      2,000.00

#### Missionary

Department of Missions      4800.00      4,800.00

#### TOTAL EXPENSES

\$48,270.00

### PROPOSED INCOME:

Assessment for parishes (7,445 adults at \$6.00)

\$44670.00

Missionary Drive

3600.00

#### TOTAL PROPOSED INCOME

\$48,270.00