Orthodox Church in America



DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

P.O. Box 11 • South Canaan, PA 18459 • 937-4686

The Right Reverend
HERMAN
Bishop of Philadelphia

ADDRESS OF THE RULING BISHOP TO THE VENERABLE CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES TO THE 21ST ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Venerable Fathers and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

I greet and welcome all of you who have gathered for the 2lst Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Our Assembly commenced with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy during which we offered prayers invoking the descent of the Holy Spirit to transform the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Lord of which we partook and then during the Opening Moleben we asked the Holy Spirit to guide all who have gathered in truth and love to further the mission of the Church. Our gathering is reflective of the tradition always preserved in the Orthodox East of assembling together as a body of believers to seek guidance of the Holy Spirit. Like the Apostles and the first Christians who gathered together to further the growth of the early communities of believers in Antioch and Jerusalem, we the clergy and laity of our Diocesan Family have come together in council.

Let us first review the vital statistics of our diocese which reveal the following:

1. OFFICIAL CENSUS

A. Membership

Clergy: 1 bishop; 33 full-time priests; 3 part-time priests; 3 priests on leave of absence, 4 retired priests; 2 Proto-deacons and one deacon.

Laity: 6161 adults; 1273 children

- B. Parishes: 30 viable parishes; 7 non-viable parishes; 1 mission parish
- C. Deaneries: 3

Frackville: 8 viable parishes, 2 non-viable parishes (Centralia, Lykens)
Philadelphia: 9 viable parishes, 1 non-viable parish (Buckingham)
Wilkes-Barre: 13 viable parishes, 4 non-viable parishes (Dallas, Dundaff,
Stroudsburg, Uniondale)

1 mission parish (Elevation of the Holy Cross - Williamsport)

2. APPOINTMENTS, RE-ASSIGNMENTS, TRANSFERS, RELEASES

Appointments: Archpriest Daniel K. Donlick, Secretary/Treasurer of Diocese Jason Kappanadze, Editor, "Your Diocese Alive"

Re-assignments: Priest Michael Evans from St. Basil Church in Simpson to Holy Assumption Church in St. Clair
Priest Michael Lepa from St. Vladimir Church in Lopez to St. Andrew Church in Dallas

Assigned: Priest Eugene Vansuch, Rector, St. John the Baptist Church, Nanticoke

Priest Vasile Prisacarou, Rector, St. Vladimir Church, Lopez Priest Thomas Kulp, Acting Rector, St. Michael Church, Mount Carmel

and SS. Peter and Paul Church, Centralia

Priest David Shewczyk, Acting Rector, St. Basil Church, Simpson

Granted Leave of Absence: Priest Samuel Garula
Priest Thomas Jones

Transfer: Archpriest Rodion Kondratick to Primate of Orthodox Church in America

Released: Archpriest Michel Hutnyan Priest Jacob Kulp

CELEBRATIONS: St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia (10th Anniversary)
St. Mary's (Nativity) Church, Coaldale (75th Anniversary)

St. Michael's Church, Jermyn (75th Anniversary)

Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua (blessing of new icons and renovated church)

SS. Peter and Paul Church, Uniondale (blessing of new icons)

MORTGAGE BURNING: Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre

3. DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS

Department of Religious Education - The Annual Fall Adult Lecture Series will be held at St. Tikhon's Seminary and lectures throughout the year will be held on a deanery level. There will be a Church School Teachers Conference and final plans will be announced at a later date.

Department of Lay Ministry and Stewardship - The first encounter for the senior citizens of our diocese was held at St. Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary and met with much success. This will be an annual event with possibly other encounters on a deanery level.

Department of Youth - Activities included the Children's Summer Camp Program at St. Tikhon's, the "Teen Bash" in Old Forge and the Winter Encounter.

Department of Music - The Annual Music Conference was held at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Department of Public Relations - At his request, and with our regret, we accepted the resignation of Priest Daniel Kovalak from this department and his work with the Diocesan Publication, "Your Diocese Alive." Jason Kappanadze has been appointed the Editor of our publication. Re-organization of this department will be done at a later date.

- 4. ASSESSMENTS We still have a few parishes that have not adopted the monthly payment remittanace for the assessments for the territorial church and the diocese which creates additional work for the Treasurer and deprives us of a steady cash flow for operation. Our budget is a tight one and we are not in a position to wait six months or longer for payment from the parishes.
- 5. SPECIAL DIOCESAN CENTER ASSESSMENT We are grateful to the parishes that paid their assessment in full which made it possible for us to liquidate the mortgage. At their request, several parishes were granted an extension of time to complete their payments. These unpaid balances are now due and these parishes are instructed to take the necessary measures to forward their remittance as soon as possible.

- 6. DECREASE IN CENSUS Once again, and with much sorrow, we announce that there has been a decrease in our membership in accordance with the most recent census. It appears that parishes were very quick to make adjustments on the census when the Special Diocesan Assessment was announced. We are now in the process of verifying all parish memberships and also seeking ways to have the lost members return to active membership. We trust that all parishes will be just as quick to make additions to their census as soon new members are received. We must all show great concern for this loss and do whatever we can to institute Church Growth. The decrease effects not only our diocesan budget but also the territorial church and prevents us from doing the work that must be done for the Church.
- 7. CLERGY COMPENSATION GUIDELINES It has been brought to my attention that several of our parishes ignore the diocesan directive whereby consideration is to be given to priest's compensation at each annual meeting. Once again all parishes are reminded to comply with this directive.

We are pleased to announce that the Pension Board of the Orthodox Church in America is doing very well and that the assets of the pension plan exceeded \$2,000,000.00 (Two Million Dollars) as of June, 1984.

8. COURT LITIGATIONS – The appeal in the case of St. Basil's Church of Simpson has been heard but to date no decision has been rendered by the presiding Judge. After several delays, we have been given trial date for St. John the Baptist Church in Mayfield which is now scheduled for October 29, 1984 in Scranton.

In my letter which appears in the current issue of our publication, YOUR DIOCESE ALIVE, reference was made to the need of the members of our diocesan family – bishop, priest, layman – to listen to each other that we may better serve the needs of the members of our Diocesan Family and God's Holy Orthodox Church in America. The needs are many and come from all areas – our clergy, troubled parents and children, our senior citizens, broken families, our youth, etc. Not only do they want to be heard but they are seeking comfort and help.

Our task is not simply to be concerned with the sustenance, and the normal function or progress of our local parish. It is our sacred duty to also care for the national ministries of the Church as well as for the ministry that each one can render to his fellowman, the natural consequence of which is a viable contribution toward the spiritual and physical welfare of our society.

Ours is the task to make Orthodoxy not simply visible, but an integral part of our lives and of the life of others. There is no longer room for parochialism, isolation or a ghetto mentality. We belong to one another. As a result of this happy reality we must concern ourselves, painful though it may be, with the problems related to our parishes, our diocese, with the territorial Orthodox Church and all communities.

The warning of St. Paul to the bishops, priests and believers in Miletus stands true for all Christians at all times. Paraphrased, he says, "Therefore, watch and remember to carefully read the signals: Let no one steal away from God, away from your faith, your self knowledge, your trust, your hope, your love, your unity, your moral integrity, your spiritual wholeness, your souls." (Acts 20:28-31)

My dear brothers and sisters, "stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (I Cor. 15:58)

St. Paul the Apostle strongly recommends to the Christian community in Ephesus: "to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace", for "there is one body and one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6) This unity Paul believes, can be maintained despite the diversity of the gifts that are accorded to each one of us by His grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ." (Eph. 4:7) His gifts, continues the Holy Apostle, were that "some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." And all this, he adds, "so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles." (Eph. 4:II-14)

How perfectly this reprimand applies to our present situation and stage of spiritual frailty and instability. The following two verses, the 15th and the 16th of this same 4th Chapter to the Ephesians, define, in more than understandable and concrete terms the unity of which he speaks: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work."

We have gathered as a diocesan family to study past projects and to assess new goals. May this 21st Diocesan Assembly receive our responsible cooperation that our actions will clearly demonstrate our ability to articulate new ideas, thoughts and opinions with objectivity and clarity which will attest to an undisputed maturity of judgement and spiritual growth.

THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Herman,

+HERMAN,

Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania Orthodox Church in America

Chancery Office: P.O. Box 11 South Canaan, Pennsylvania 18459 (717) 937-4686

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

This intent of this report is to outline the highlights of the Diocesan Council Meetings held since the last Diocesan Assembly held at St. Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary Complex, South Canaan, Pennsylvania on Saturday, September 22, 1984.

86th Diocesan Council Meeting, December 20, 1983, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania

- 1. The Secretary-Treasurer report was presented by the Very Rev. Rodion Kondratick for the period ending November 30, 1983.
- Building Fund collections from 01/01/83 through 11/83 totalled \$2,912.65. Fr.
 Kondratick advised \$6,400 was profited from the Sobor, and \$4,000 received
 from delinquent assessments.
- 3. Diocesan Authority Report presented by His Grace, Bishop Herman advised that the Very Rev. Rodion Kondratick will be leaving his assignment in Nanticoke to assume a new position as the Secretary to the Metropolitan. Tentative date for the new appointment is February 1, 1984.
- 4. Bishop Herman summarized the litigation proceedings and preparations being made for the court sessions and anticipate our day in court in either February or March, 1984.
- 5. Minutes from the 20th Diocesan Assembly were read and approved by the Diocesan Authority and the members of the Diocesan Council on Motion to accept the minutes as read by the Very Rev. Vladimir Petorak and the Second was made by the Very Rev. Joseph Martin Motion unanimous.
- 6. Insurance Mr. Russell Dugan advised of a possible increase in premiums for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Major Medical premium of 80 cents thus increasing the benefits from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. 65 Plus will be increased to an annual premium of \$199.00. The total membership is 200 and the total amount of claims have been \$150,000. Alternative programs will be investigated and another review in May, 1984 of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield program now in force.

87th Diocesan Council Meeting, Thursday, May 10, 1984, Diocesan Center, South Canaan, Pa.

1.	Secretary-Treasurer	reported in a written report	the following:
	12/3/183	Checking Account	\$ 8,631.07
	01/01/84-03/28/84	Income Received	\$139,548.05
		Expenses Incurred	\$ 89,305.89
	3/28/84	Balance	\$ 50,242.16

The Very Rev. Daniel Donlick reported that as the monies are received for the Diocesan Center Mortgage, they are applied to the mortgage. Total Assessments Due \$228,787.00

Total Assessments Paid to Date

\$228,787.00 \$114,046.49

3. His Crace, Bishop Herman reported on his visitations to the various parishes and is very happy to have has this opportunity. A complete and comprehensive study will be made of all the material, suggestions and requests received for presentation to the 1985 Diocesan Assembly.

Litigation proceedings - little activity, we are awaiting the Answers to the Interrogatories and presently the status is at the mercy of the attorneys and judge.

- 4. The publication "Your Diocese Alive" is favorably received and should be continued. Economically the staff is within their budget and this is due to the continued voluntary hours by the involved personnel.
- 5. Mortgage Liquidation target date is the end of July, 1984. If all Assessments are paid as scheduled, this can be accomplished.
- 6. Mortgage Burning Celebration is planned for Sunday, August 26, 1984. A dinner-dance will take place at Gus Genetti's Motor Lodge, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Program will begin with a Moleben at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, followed by a cocktail hour from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Gust Genetti Motor Lodge, with dinner scheduled for 5:00 p.m. 7:00 to 9:00 the Henry Charles Band will provide music for dancing.

Motion by the Very Rev. Vladimir Petorak establishing a ticket price of \$25.00 per person, second was made by Donald Motel - Motion carried.

7. Diocesan Assembly for 1974 - Motion by the Very Rev. Vladimir Petorak that the location of the 1984 Diocesan Assembly be changed to South Canaan, Pennsylvania on September 22, 1984 and the second was made by the Very Rev. Daniel Geeza - Motion unanimous

88th Diocesan Council Meeting, Thursday, July 19, 1984, Diocesan Center, South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

1. The Treasurer presented a full financial report showing Total Income 03/29/84-06/30/84 \$173,277.90
Expenses \$155,619.73
Balance 06/30/83 \$17,483.17

- 2. The Diocesan Bishop, His Grace, Bishop Herman was very pleased with the Sr. Citizens Day which was held on June 30, 1984 at South Canaan. Individuals, 81) in attendance agreed it was a great success and this will become an annual event.
- 3. Assignments recently made included the Ordination of Fr. David assigned to Simpson; Fr. Evans to St. Marys, St. Clair, Fr. Lepa to Dallas and Fr. Basil Prisical to Lopez.
- 4. The Metropolitan Mini-Counsel will meet August 7th through 9th, 1984.
- 5. Special Assessment (\$35.00) all monies have not been received in full from all the parishes. Outstanding assessments are promised by year-end, 1984.
- Litigation at this time we are awaiting a date for court, several dates have been set but due to the heavy case-load in the courts, the date is pending.
- 7. Diocesan Center mortgage liquidation took place on Friday, July 13, 1984 when the balance was paid in full. Amount of outstanding assessments total \$40,946.65.
- 8. Florence and Joseph Boyko are the Reservation Chairpersons for the Grand Banquet in celebration of the Mortgage Liquidation.
- 9. Budget was presented and approved with corrections. A Motion was proposed, and a second was made with a unanimous vote to present a realistic budget for the 1986 Fiscal Year to reflect the upkeep of the Diocesan Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie C. McCarty, Secretary

Diocesan Council

+ Bishop Herman

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 1985

EXPENSES:

Administrative - Salaries & Benefits		
The Bishop	\$9,600.00	
Pension	1,584.00	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	648.00	
Social Security	900.00	
Travel expense	3,000.00	
Secretary/Treasurer	3,600.00	\$19,323.00
Diocesan Center - Chancery & Residence		
P.P. & L. (electricity)	4,800.00	
Telephone	1,800.00	
Insurance	2,000.00	
Center Maintenance	1,400.00	10,000.00
Traveling Expenses		
Diocesan Council (5 meetings)	850.00	
Metropolitan Council	1,000.00	1,850.00
Diocesan Departments and Programs		
Department of Religious Education	1,000.00	
Department of Publications		20
("Your Diocese Alive" 6 issues)	7,200.00	
Department of Public Relations	1,600.00	
Department of Lay Ministry & Stewardship	400.00	10,200.00
Miscellaneous		2,000.00
Office Supplies and Printing		3,000.00
Missionary		
Department of Missions		4,800.00
OTAL EXPENSES		\$46,442.00
PROPOSED INCOME:		
Diocesan Assessment to Parishes (6157 adults	36,942,00	
Missionary Drive	4,800.00	
OTAL PROPOSED INCOME		\$41,742.00

Philadelphia Deanery Report Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

Very Rev. Daniel Geeza, Dean. Rev. John Kowalczyk, Secretary. Rev. Dimitri Voytilla, Treasurer.

Parishes: Bethlehem, St. Nicholas Church, Rev. Dimitri Voytilla, Pastor. Bucking-ham, St. Mark's Church, Very Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky, Pastor. Catasaqua, Holy Trinity Church, Very Rev. Michael Romanchak, Pastor. Coatesville, St. Nicholas Church, serviced by Rev. Andrew Goidich. Philadelphia, Assumption of the Holy Virgin, Rev. John Kowalczyk, Pastor. Philadelphia, St. Nicholas Church, Very Rev. John Bohush, Pastor (Rev. Joseph Toroney, attached). Philadelphia, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Very Rev. Daniel Geeza, Pastor, and Very Rev. Alexander Fedoronko, Pastor Emeritus. Pottstown, Holy Trinity Church, Rev. Jacob Kulp, Pastor. Wallingford, St. Herman's Church, Rev. Claude Vinyard, Pastor.

Transferred: Rev. Eugene Vansuch, released from the Albanian Diocese and Pastor of St. John Chrysostom Church, Philadelphia, and assigned as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Nanticoke, Pa., Wilkes-Barre Deanery, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. Fr. Eugene participated actively in Deanery affairs and served as assistant Dean (Philadelphia).

Meetings: Deanery meetings are held on a quarterly basis with the majority of clergy in attendance. Meetings are hosted by Deanery clergy. Following the business session there follows a lively debate on sociological issues affecting the spiritual lives of Orthodox Christians.

Activities and Events: In the Fall of 1983 the Deanery sponsored two Advent lectures. The first one was held at St. Herman's Church, Wallingford, Pa., with the lecture, "What is Man?, His Growth in the Church", presented by Fr. Joseph Woodill. The second lecture was held at St. Stephen's Cathedral, N.E. Phila., presented by Fr. John Kowalczyk, who spoke on "Organ Transplants/An Orthodox Approach". Both lectures were well attended. An effort will be made to provide additional lectures this coming Advent.

Mission Vesper services were held during the season of Great Lent at the following churches: St. Herman's, Wallingford, Pa.; Holy Assumption, Philadelphia, Pa.; St. Michael's, Wilmington/Newark, Delaware; St. Stephen's Cathedral, N.E. Phila.; and St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, Pa. We were pleased to have His Grace, Bishop Herman, as guest celebrant at services in Holy Assumption and St. Stephen's Cathedral. Attendance at all mission services was very good and considered to be the best ever.

A Sunday School Conference was sponsored last year by the Deanery and plans are now in the making for a Conference this Fall (September 29th, St. Herman's, Wallingford, Pa.).

On Saturday, August 11, 1984, the Deanery sponsored "An Encounter with Orthodox Nuns", which was held at Holy Assumption Church, Philadelphia. The day began with Divine Liturgy concelebrated by Deanery clergy. Two presentations were offered through the course of the day. The first was the "Role of Women in the Church" and the second was the "Role of the Mother of God in Orthodox Worship". Presentations were made by nuns from the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, Pa., and also by their Chaplain, Fr. Roman, who accompanied them. Vespers followed by General Confession ended a very spiritually moving and successful day.

Respectfully submitted,

Very Rev Doniel George

REPORT OF THE WILKES-BARRE DEANERY TO THE TWENTY-FIRST DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery consists of 18 parishes in Northeastern Pennsylvania serviced by 15 full-time priests.

LENTEN MISSIONS

The Rite of Orthodoxy was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Coaldale, PA. The clergy of the Deanery participated in five Lenten Mission Services and the Holy Unction Service which was served at All Saints Church, Olyphant.

PUBLICATIONS

The Deanery published and distributed to all parishes the Akathist to the Passion of Christ in booklet form. Other publications, e.g. 'Prayers of Repentance' and 'To Help You Pray' are being distributed to the sick and all the faithful of the Deanery.

VISUAL AID AND CASSETTE LIBRARY

Father David Lisko of All Saints Church, Olyphant co-ordinates distribution of these educational materials.

TESTIMONIALS

The Deanery Clergy and Matushki honored Father Rodion Kondratick and Father Michael Evans and their Matushki with Testimonial Dinners in gratitude for their service in the Deanery.

MISCELLANEOUS

A very educational and enlightening tour of Chase Correctional Institution in Dallas, PA was made by several Deanery priests. The tour was led by the Roman Catholic Chaplain.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre will celebrate the burning of their mortgage on October 7th. St. Michael's Church, Jermyn will celebrate their 75th Anniversary on November 11th.

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS

V. Rev. Rodion Kondrtick was released from the Diocese in order to assume the position as Secretary to the Metropolitan.

Rev. Eugene Vansuch was assigned as Rector of St. John the Baptist Church, Nanticoke.

Rev. Michael Lepa was transferred from St. Vladimir's Church, Lopez and assigned as Administrator of St. Andrew's Church, Dallas.

Rev. Vasily Prisacaru was assigned as Rector of St. Vladimir's Church, Lopez.

Rev. Michael Evans was transferred from St. Basil's Church, Simpson and assigned as Rector of St. Mary's Church, St. Clair.

Newly ordained Rev. David Shewczyk was assigned as Acting Rector of St. Basil's Church, Simpson.

DEANERY OFFICERS

Very Rev. John Kuchta, Dean Very Rev. Andrew Shuga, Vice-Dean Rev. John Adamcio, Secretary Very Rev. Vladimir Fetcho, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

FRACKVILLE DEANERY Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Penna.

Diocesen Assembly Report September 22, 1984

GENERAL

The Frackville Deanery includes 11 parishes. The parishes are serviced by 8 priests.

LENTEN MISSIONS

The Edshop coordinated Mission Vespers during Lent. Sunday of Orthodoxy was allebrated at St. Mary's Church in Coaldale. Fr. Paul Borick, Pastor.

VITTUERSARY

The Nativity of the Holy Theotokos parish in Coaldale just celebrated its 75% strategrary celebration with Metropolitan Theodosius and Biskop Herman serving the Pontifical Divine Liturgy along with the Paster, Father Paul Borick, former paster sons of the parish and deanery clergy. The banquet which was hold after the Divine Liturgy had 800 people in attendance.

SG. Peter and Paul Church of Minersville, with Father Michael Hatrak was pasted will colebrate their 75th anniversary in September of 1985.

NEW CLERGY

Effective March 1984, Fr. Thomas Culp was assigned to St, Michael's Church of Mt. Carmel as acting Rector.

Wirgin Mary Church of St. Clair as Rector.

THUTTURES

Tr. John Matusiak will be in the deanery on November 3 and November 4 to give the workshop of parish growth to the parishes of Christ the Saviour of Harrisburg and St. Michael's Church of Mt. Carmel. Neighboring parishes are also invited to participate.

MEETING

The next meeting of the deanery will take place Tuesday October 2, 1984 in McAdoo.

DEANERY OFFICERS

Father Joseph Martin, Dean Father James Jadick, Secretary Father Michael Hatrak, Treasurer