

33RD DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 19, 1996

#####

ARCHPRIEST EUGENE VANSUCH, SECRETARY

The intent of my report is to present highlights of the Diocesan Council Meetings held since the last Diocesan Assembly, October 21, 1995, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Old Forge, PA. The Diocesan Council met in three sessions:

115 th Session - Thursday, March 28, 1996	St. Tikhon's Seminary
116 th Session - Tuesday, July 2, 1996	St. Tikhon's Seminary
117 th Session - Thursday, September 26, 1996	St. Tikhon's Seminary

His Eminence Archbishop **HERMAN** chaired all three Diocesan Council Meetings with the following representatives:

Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer: Fr. John Kowalczyk [present at all three]
 Diocesan Deans: Fr. Vladimir Fetcho [present at all three]
 Fr. Daniel Ressetar [present at two; excused for one]
 Fr. John Udics [present at all three]

Deanery Representatives:

Frackville:	Fr. Michael Hatrak	[present at two; excused for one]
	Mr. Douglas Rudenko	[present at one; excused for two]
Philadelphia:	Fr. Eugene Vansuch	[present at all three]
	Reader Christopher Rowe	[present at all three]
Wilkes-Barre:	Fr. Andrew Shuga	[present at two; excused for one]
	Mr. John Zoranski	[present at two; excused for one]
At-Large:	Fr. Stephen Karaffa	[present at all three]
	Mrs. Marie Proch	[present at all three]

Metropolitan Council Representatives:

Fr. Joseph Martin	[present at all three]
Mr. John Zoranski	(See above)

115TH DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 28, 1996

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The Minutes were read in their entirety and reviewed. The Council found no additions or corrections to the Minutes and approved them for distribution to the parishes.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

His Eminence reported on the status of the following parishes regarding parish clergy:

St. Nicholas, Coatesville. No permanent priest at this time. Parish is being serviced by a retired Greek Orthodox Priest from Delaware.

Holy Trinity, Catasauqua. Parish is being serviced on weekends by Fr. Claude Vinyard.

Holy Resurrection, Alden Station. Parish is being serviced on weekends by Fr. Vladimir Petorak. His Eminence attended the annual parish meetings at St. John's Edwardsville; Holy Trinity, Catasauqua; and Holy Resurrection, Frackville to attend to matters raised in the parishes.

Additional reports given by His Eminence included:

- A. The Lenten Schedule of Services along with the Bright Tuesday Paschal celebration;
- B. Report on the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops meeting.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER

Fr. John Kowalczyk's report covers the period from 9-1-95 to 1-31-96. He reports a Checking Account Balance of \$87,734.00, with Income of \$141,511.57. Expenses are 168,160.00, leaving a Checking Account balance of \$61,084.97. The Location of Funds report stands at \$128,154.85.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Significant events in the calendar of His Eminence Archbishop **HERMAN** for 1995/96.

The Parish Council Conference will be held in the Summer in Bethlehem, PA with the theme, "Strength and Commitment."

Recent Flood Disaster affecting parishioners in several of our parishes is noted. A diocesan-wide appeal will be made to aid the families affected by this recent tragedy.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

His Eminence reported on the current health status of Fr. Paul Borick, recuperating from open heart surgery.

His Eminence responded to an inquiry on pastoral matters that concerns regarding membership transfer between parishes and permission for a parishioner to go to another Orthodox priest for Confession will be addressed at a future Clergy Conference.

116TH DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING - JULY 2, 1996

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

His Eminence Archbishop **HERMAN** reported on the following pastoral assignments and parish vacancies:

Fr. Pavel Soucek, assigned to Holy Trinity Parish, Catasauqua, PA and Fr. Andrew Diehl assigned to St. Michael Parish, Wilmington, DE.

Holy Resurrection Parish in Alden Station continues to be served by Fr. Vladimir Petorak and St. Nicholas Parish in Coatesville continues to be served by Fr. Ganiaris, a retired Greek Orthodox priest.

The annual Parish Council Conference is set for Bethlehem, PA on Saturday, August 17th.

His Eminence will be in Russia from July 5-19 with His Beatitude.

The consecration of Holy Trinity Parish, Stroudsburg will be held on Saturday, September 28th.

The Summer Camp at St. Tikhon's was a huge success. Over 138 children registered and attended. With the staff and counselors, the total number attending the week-long camp was over 175. His Eminence expressed his deepest appreciation and thanks to all clergy and laity who worked and helped at the Summer Camp.

The situation regarding the Ukrainian Church remains unchanged.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER:

Fr. John Kowalczyk's report covers the period from 2-1-96 to 5-31-96. The Checking Account Balance is \$61,084.97. Income during this period is \$158,813.53, while expenses are \$130,265.24, leaving a Checking Account Balance of \$89,633.26. The Location of Funds balance is \$156,703.14.

OTHER REPORTS

Fr. Eugene Vansuch distributed information on the upcoming Parish Council Conference and reviewed the schedule for the day.

Fr. John Kowalczyk reported that as of June 30, 1996, a total of \$4,567.70 was received in response to the emergency Diocesan Flood Disaster Collection. A total of 7 families from 3 parishes each received \$1,000.00 from the Diocese.

Two Diocesan Students, Seminarian Timothy Hasenecz (St. Nicholas, Bethlehem) and Seminarian Joseph Bussard (St. Tikhon's Monastery Parish) received Diocesan Scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 per student.

His Eminence announced two upcoming DRE activities and encouraged the support of our clergy and parishes. The Church School Picnic in Williamsport on July 27 and the Women's Retreat on August 10, at St. Tikhon's.

A gift of \$5,000.00 to the parish of Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg, on the occasion of the consecration of the new church, will be presented to the parish on Saturday, September 28. His Eminence will make the presentation as a gift from all Diocesan parishes.

The DRE sponsored a successful Church School Conference in Harrisburg under the direction of Michael Anderson.

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery will sponsor a picnic/swimming outing for altar boys of the Deanery. His Eminence encouraged the other Deaneries to consider fellowship activities for their altar boys.

Open discussion was held on the following:

Several priests related stories about their experiences with new Russian immigrants and the attempts being made to meet their spiritual needs.

The 1998 All-American Council. No site has been chosen as of this date. The Pre-Conciliar Commission will meet to plan for the Council. Parishes are encouraged to budget for this expense and assure participation.

117TH DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 26, 1996

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

His Eminence Archbishop HERMAN reported on the following:

The consecration services are set for the following parishes: Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, Sept. 28, 1996; and St. Michael's, Wilmington, DE on Sat. Oct. 20, 1996.

Pastoral situations include the request of Holy Resurrection Parish, Alden Station to have a part-time parish priest. The parish is renting its rectory to provide a source of income; Fr. Peter Dubinin will be leaving All Saints Parish on December 1, and enter the Military Chaplaincy.

Diocesan Conferences, Retreats and Summer Camp have been very well attended. Our Diocesan programs are reaching the faithful in neighboring Dioceses who are grateful we have opened our programs for their participation.

The Holy Synod of Bishops will meet in Late October and receive a report on SCOPA; the installation of the new Archbishop SPYRIDON for the Greek Archdiocese; the Clergy Handbook; the status of the Ukrainian Church.

August 26-27, 1997, are the dates set for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of ST. INNOCENT. His Eminence has been appointed chairman of the celebrations which will take place in Alaska, St. Tikhon's Monastery and possibly one in Russia. The schedule will be finalized at the Holy Synod meeting in October.

There is a possibility the relics of St. Seraphim will be brought to the United States and to St. Tikhon's Monastery for the 1997 Memorial Day Pilgrimage. Permission if being sought from His Holiness Patriarch ALEKSY II and the Church in Russia to have the relics brought to America.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER:

Fr. John Kowalczyk's report covers the period from 6-1-96 to 8-31-96. He reports a Checking Account balance of \$89,633.34 with Income of \$94,725.18. Expenses are \$87,147.37, leaving a Checking Account Balance of \$97,211.15.

The Location of Funds is reported as \$164,281.03. Fr. John was authorized by the Diocesan Council to purchase two additional certificates of deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 each. This will bring our CD total to 8.

DIOCESAN BUDGET

A Proposed Budget for 1996/97 was presented to the Council for review. The Council agreed to allocate \$1,000.00 annually from the budgeted Missionary Fund to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards as our Diocesan commitment to FOS. As our Diocese participates in Stewardship, hopefully, our parishes will follow the example and become FOS members.

Reviewing the needs of the Diocese and its Departments, programs and the office of the Archbishop, Fr. John Udics moves:

"The Diocesan Council proposes that the 1996/97 Budget, to be submitted at the 1996 Diocesan Assembly, reflect an increase of \$200.00 per month for the administrative support of the office of His Eminence Archbishop HERMAN." Motion seconded by Fr. Michael Hatrak. MOTION PASSED.

The Council spent much time discussing ways of increasing active participation at the Diocesan Assembly. Issues of concern to our Diocese and parishes need to be discussed in open forum. It is hoped that delegates will take the opportunity to share their concerns and seek answers to their questions at the Assembly.

OTHER MATTERS

Parishes of our Diocese are encouraged to take advantage of the computer technology available to help their parish priest and their parish with record-keeping, etc. A campaign is underway to collect used computers for the Seminary as advertised in the latest issue of ALIVE IN CHRIST.

A Diocesan Calendar was proposed to avoid conflict with the scheduling of parish activities and events simultaneously with neighboring Deanery parishes. The calendar would be published in ALIVE IN CHRIST.

The above represents highlights from the Diocesan Council Meetings since the last Diocesan Assembly. I will entertain any questions from the Assembly concerning the content of my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Eugene Vansuch

Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Secretary

+ Archbishop Herman

+His Eminence Archbishop HERMAN

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1996/97

EXPENSES:

ADMINISTRATIVE - Salaries and Expenses

The Office of the Archbishop	\$12,000.00	
Pension	1,440.00	
Discretionary	2,400.00	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	2,000.00	
Social Security	1,936.00	
Travel Expense	5,400.00	
Payroll Taxes	389.00	
Term Life Insurance	738.00	
Aide to the Archbishop	4,800.00	
Pension	576.00	
Social Security	735.00	
The Office of Secretary/Treasurer	4,800.00	
Pension	576.00	
Social Security	<u>735.00</u>	
		\$38,525.00

DIOCESAN CENTER - Chancery & Residence

PA Power & Light (electricity & heat)	\$5,500.00	
Telephone (additional Telephone)	3,500.00	
Insurance	3,000.00	
Center Maintenance (painting, etc)	<u>7,000.00</u>	
		\$19,000.00

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS

Metropolitan Council	\$1,000.00	
Diocesan Magazine	25,000.00	
Public Relations	2,500.00	
Religious Education & Youth	5,500.00	
Department of Lay Ministry & Stewardship	3,000.00	
Scholarship Fund	5,000.00	
Clergy Assistance Program	1,500.00	
Continuous Education for Clergy	<u>3,500.00</u>	
		\$47,000.00

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Missionary	\$15,000.00	
Charity	6,000.00	
Office Supplies & Printing	3,500.00	
Miscellaneous & Special Projects	1,500.00	
C.P.A. (Audit & Reports)	<u>1,500.00</u>	
		\$27,500.00

TOTAL EXPENSES - 1996/97 Proposed Budget \$132,025.00

Proposed Income: @ \$20.00 4,974 Adults

Diocesan Assessments of Parishes	\$99,480.00	
National Mission Allocation	1,500.00	
Diocesan Magazine Ad Listings & Renewal	7,500.00	
Diocesan United Appeal	<u>23,545.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME - 1996/97 Proposed Budget		\$132,025.00

* The Diocesan Magazine total expenses covers the expenses for the regular articles and information for the Diocesan Departments of Religious Education & Youth and Department of Lay Ministry and Stewardship



WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

REPORT OF THE WILKES-BARRE DEANERY TO THE 33rd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery consists of 17 Parishes in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES

Since the last Diocesan Assembly the Deanery held five meetings which were hosts by different parishes throughout the Deanery. Each meeting of the Deanery is preceded by an Akathist to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre. On December 10, 1995, the Deanery once again participated in the Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska which was hosted by St. Michael's Church, Jermyn. Following the Akathist a lecture was presented by Dr. Christopher Veniamin. On May 26, 1996, His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS presented the Deanery with relics of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre. The relics are available to the parishes of the Deanery for veneration by the faithful. An Altar Boy Outing was held on August 20, 1996, with approximately 30 altar boys attending. A Library consisting of Video, Visual Aids and Cassettes are available to the parishes of the deanery.

LENTEN MISSIONS

The clergy and faithful of the Deanery attended the Rite of Orthodoxy which was celebrated by Archbishop HERMAN at the Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre. They, also, participated in all the scheduled Lenten Mission Services and the Sacrament of Holy Unction which was held at the St. Michael's Church, Old Forge.

CLERGY CHANGES

Fr. John Mason was released as Rector of the Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre.

Fr. David Shewczyk was released as Rector of the Holy Resurrection Church, Alden Station and assigned as Rector of the Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre.

Fr. John Maxwell was released as Rector of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Uniondale.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg, celebrated the Consecration of their new church on September 28, 1996.

DEANERY OFFICERS

Archpriest Vladimir Fetcho, Dean
Archpriest Andrew Shuga, Vice Dean
Priest David Shewczyk, Secretary
Priest Stephen Karaffa, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Vladimir Fetcho
Archpriest Vladimir Fetcho, Dean

D
I
O
C
E
S
E

O
F

P
H
I
L
A
D
E
L
P
H
I
A

A
N
D

E
A
S
T
E
R
N

P
E
N
N
S
Y
L
V
A
N
I
A

O
R
T
H
O
D
O
X

C
H
U
R
C
H

I
N

A
M
E
R
I
C
A



THE PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, Orthodox Church in America

Report of the Dean - September, 1995 to September, 1996

Our Deanery clergy meet every other month at a different church. After singing an Akathist, we hold our business meeting, sometimes followed by a presentation on questions of common interest. We try to make our meetings productive, spiritually edifying and intellectually stimulating.

Our Deanery's ten churches are among the over sixty Orthodox churches of various jurisdictions in our Deanery's geographical area. The Deanery clergy and faithful in the north of our Deanery actively participate in the events sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. The Deanery clergy and faithful in the Philadelphia area regularly participate in the events sponsored by the Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. The Clergy Brotherhoods are playing an increasingly important role in the Christian life and witness of our area.

Our Deanery welcome Father Pavel and Matushka Paula Soucek. Father Pavel is the new Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua, as of August, 1996. We also welcome Father Andrew and Matushka Susanna Diehl and their sons Andrew, Nicholas, Alexander, and Thomas. Father Andrew is Acting Rector of Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Wilmington, Delaware. The retired Father Stamatios Ganiaras generously has been giving his time to serve the spiritual needs of Saint Nicholas Church in Coatesville. Father Stamatios recently underwent heart surgery, and we ask for your prayers for his health. It is a long and difficult struggle to match clergy with vacant parishes now, and the change from one long-loved pastor to someone new is not an easy one to make. But we pray the Holy Spirit will guide both the congregations and the new pastors in growth in love, and cooperation in doing the work of Our Lord.

The Philadelphia Deanery's Advent Mission Service and Lecture is now annually a pan-Orthodox event. Last year, it was hosted by Saint Nicholas' Church, Philadelphia, on December 3rd. The Akathist to Saint Herman of Alaska was concelebrated by our Deanery clergy and clergy of other jurisdictions and sung congregationally by the more than ninety faithful in attendance. Reverend Mother Raphaela, Abbess of the Community of the Holy Myrrhbearers, was our speaker. In 1996, the Advent Mission Service and Lecture will be held December 8th, at Saint Stephen's Cathedral.

Our Deanery clergy and faithful in Philadelphia's participation in the pan-Orthodox Great Blessing of Waters in January of 1996, was prevented by extreme weather conditions.

During the first week of Great Lent, 1996, the annual Philadelphia area pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat was held, celebrating Matins in the mornings, and then Vespers after a Lenten lunch. The retreat is held in a different church each day, and the clergy and faithful of various parishes of our Deanery participate. Attendance at these services was very good throughout the week.

On Monday after the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the Lehigh Valley Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood holds a clergy retreat. Father Eugene Vansuch is the Secretary of Brotherhood. Father Nicholas Triantafilou, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese spoke to the Brotherhood Clergy on contemporary issues with practical pastoral applications. The Vespers of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, 1997, will be hosted by our Saint Nicholas Church, Bethlehem.

In 1995, our Philadelphia Deanery, the Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, and the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of the Lehigh Valley sponsored joint Mission Services during Great Lent. In spite of the overwhelming attendance in the Philadelphia area Mission services, our Deanery and the Clergy Brotherhoods decided that it would be better if half the services were sponsored by the Deanery and half by the Brotherhoods. So, during Great Lent 1996, the Philadelphia portion of our Deanery and the Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood jointly sponsored the Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers and two of the Mission Vespers of the four remaining Sundays of Lent. The faithful crowds were quite large at the Brotherhood Mission services. The speakers were chosen from among the local clergy, and a pan-Orthodox Choir sang the responses.

During Great Lent 1996, the Lehigh Valley portion of our Deanery and the Lehigh Valley Clergy Brotherhood jointly sponsored the Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers. Those present at the service say that this was one of the most prayerful and moving Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers celebrations in memory. The Church was filled to capacity. Mr Nicholas Lezinsky led a pan-Orthodox Choir in singing the responses.

Our Deanery sponsored Mission Vespers on the other two Sundays of Lent, and a celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday of the Week of the Cross. Our Deanery-sponsored Mission services were very poorly attended except by the host congregations. But for various reasons, in 1997, our Deanery and the Clergy Brotherhoods will follow the same pattern for Mission services as we did in 1996.

On the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, Saint Stephen's Cathedral hosts Divine Liturgy for our Deanery clergy and for the clergy of the Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood: in 1996, on May 8. This is a wonderful way of keeping the light of Pascha burning bright in our souls.

In June, 1996, we invited Father Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Father Gregory Havrilak, Director of Communications, and Father Joseph Fester of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards to attend our Deanery Meeting at Saint Stephen's Cathedral. We invited the clergy of the other Deaneries of our Diocese to hear Father Kondratick's report on the state of the Church, and Father Fester's presentation. More than half of our diocesan clergy brothers were present on that day.

Our Deanery has invited Father Joseph Fester of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards to present the clergy a 'Stewardship Workshop' on November 14th, as a one-day Advent retreat open to all the Orthodox clergy of the area. We hope that through this introduction, F.O.S. 'Stewardship Workshops' will be organized for all our faithful.

Our Deanery's goals are to provide support for the clergy, to advance the spiritual life of the faithful, and to shine the light of Christ in the Orthodox Tradition. We pray that more of our Deanery faithful and our fellow-Orthodox neighbors will catch fire with the burning zeal shared by our partners in these efforts, so that we can work together to carry on the work of Our Lord in the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys.

Saint Stephen's Cathedral (1971), Philadelphia; Archpriest Daniel Geeza, Cathedral Dean
Holy Trinity Church (1899), Catasauqua; Protopresbyter Pavel Soucek, Rector
Assumption of the Virgin Church (1913) Philadelphia; Archpriest John Udics, Rector, Dean
Saint Michael's Church (1915), Wilmington, Del.; Priest Andrew Diehl, Acting Rector.
Saint Nicholas Church (1916), Coatesville; serviced by local clergy
Saint Nicholas Church (1916), Bethlehem; Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Rector
Saint Nicholas Church (1917), Philadelphia; Archpriest John Bohush, Rector
Holy Trinity Church (1928), Pottstown; Archpriest Nicholas Yuschak, Rector
Saint Herman's Church (1974), Gradyville; Priest John Perich, Rector
Saint Mark's Church (1974), Wrightstown; Archpriest Theodore Heckman, Rector, Secretary

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Ps. 127:1

FRACKVILLE DEANERY REPORT

October 19, 1996

- V. Rev. Daniel D. Ressetar, Dean

The following priests are assigned to the following parishes:

Coaldale, Saint Mary Church, Archpriest Paul Borick;
Frackville, Holy Ascension Church, Archpriest Paul Ropitsky;
Harrisburg, Christ The Saviour Church, Archpriest Daniel D. Ressetar and
Archpriest Michael G. Kovach, who is attached to the parish;
Lykens, Holy Ascension Church, Priest Nicholas Wyslutzky;
McAdoo, Holy Trinity Church, Priest Theodore Orzolek;
Minersville and Saint Clair, Saints Peter and Paul and Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Archpriest Michael Hatrak;
Mount Carmel, Saint Michael Church, Archpriest Michael Evans;
Shillington, Saint Herman of Alaska Church, Priest John Onofrey.

The Officers of the Frackville Deanery: Father Daniel D. Ressetar, Dean;
Father Michael Hatrak, Assistant Dean and Treasurer; Father John Onofrey,
Secretary.

An Advent Presentation, sponsored by Christ The Saviour Church in cooperation with the Frackville Deanery and the Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central Pennsylvania (the dean is now president again of this 14-member inter-Orthodox Church organization which he re-organized in 1967), heard Father Thomas Hopko, Dean of Saint Vladimir Seminary, speak on "Family: God's Plan" at the church in Harrisburg on Saturday, November 18, 1995.

On December 28, 1995, the Clergy Workshop sheets, completed by the active parish priests of the Frackville Deanery according to the Clergy Compensation Guide, were forwarded in one envelope to the Office of Development of the Orthodox Church in America to Father Joseph Fester, the Director. As required by the last All-American Council of the OCA, these figures gave the chancery office a good idea of what is offered and how deficient the financial compensation packages for the parish priests might be.

During the period of Great Lent of 1996, after each of the deanery lenten mission vespers, a free-will offering was taken for informational tracts about Fasting, What Is Lent? and The Resurrection. The proceeds of \$255.00 were added to the deanery savings account.

Significant Events in the Calendar of His Eminence Archbishop Herman, compiled for the 33rd Diocesan Assembly by Archpriest John Kowalczyk, Chairman of the Department of Public Relations.

October 21 - presided over the 32nd Diocesan Assembly held at St. Michael's Church in Old Forge, Pennsylvania.

October 22 - celebrated the Hierarchial Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Church in Wilkes-barre in honor of the retirement of V. Rev. John Mason.

October 29 - celebrated the Hierarchial Divine Liturgy at Christ the Saviour Church in Harrisburg and attended the Colonial District F.R.O.C. Convention.

November 4 - visited Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg and blessed the new Church so that Divine Services can be temporarily held.

November 5 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Michael's Church in Jermyn, which was followed by a Grand Banquet at the Church Hall.

December 10 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Nicholas Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

December 17 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Herman's Church in Gradyville, Pa.

January 14th - made an archpastoral visitation to Holy Ascension Church in Frackville, Pa.

January 21st - ordained Reader Basil Gilbert to the Holy Diaconate at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.

January 22nd - 23rd traveled to Washington D.C. and participated in the National March for Life by giving the invocation. Delivered the benediction at the Annual Rose Dinner held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel later that evening.

January 24 - was the guest of Bishop Timlin of Scranton for dinner and led the Orthodox delegation for Christian Unity Week.

January 27 - was the guest speaker at the Annual Respect for Life Breakfast, held in Scranton, sponsored by the Pennsylvanians for Human Life.

January 28 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville, Pa.

February 11 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Herman's Church in Shillington, Pa.

February 25 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia, Pa.

March 3 - celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy Service at the Holy Resurrection Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

March 10 - celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church in Catasauqua, Pa.

March 17 - made an archpastoral visitation to Holy Resurrection Church in Alden Station and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

Celebrated the lenten Vesper Service at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, Pa.

March 18-21 - participated in the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops in Oyster Bay Cove, New York.

March 24 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Michael's Church in Wilmington, Del., and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

Celebrated the Eve of the Feast of Annunciation at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.

March 28 - presided over the 115th Diocesan Council Meeting at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, Pa.

**March 31 - made an archpastoral visitation to Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick, Pa., and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.
Celebrated the lenten Vesper Service at St. Michael's Church in Mt. Carmel, Pa.**

**April 7 - made an archpastoral visitation to Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and celebrated the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy.
Delivered the Homily at the Bridegroom Matin service at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church in South Canaan, Pa.**

April 10 - presided over the Holy Unction service at St. Michael's Church in Old Forge, Pa.

April 14 - Celebrated the Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church in South Canaan, Pa.

April 16 - Celebrated the Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Diocesan Family followed by a luncheon reception.

May 5 - visited St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem for the anniversary celebration and concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Theodosius. This was followed by a Grand Banquet.

May 12 - traveled to Montreal, Canada for the wedding of Andrew Anderson.

**May 19 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Nicholas Church in Olyphant and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.
Presented Archpriest Vladimir Fecho with the Synodal Gramota.**

May 24-27 - participated in the 92nd Annual Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pa.

June 6 - traveled to Syosset, New York and participated in the Lesser Synod Meeting.

June 9 - made an archpastoral visitation to St. Michael's Church in Jermyn, Pa. and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

June 23-29 - participated at the Annual Summer Camp at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, Pa.

June 30 - traveled to Holy Ascension Church in Lykens and celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

July 2 - presided over the 116th Diocesan Council Meeting.

July 5 - 19 traveled to Russia with His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius on official church business.

July 21 - made an Archpastoral visit to Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Uniondale, Pennsylvania.

July 26 - traveled to Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and participated in a bazaar in support of St. Tikhon's Seminary.

August 10th - participated in the 2nd Annual Women's Retreat at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

August 17 - participated in the Annual Parish Council Conference in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

August 23 - traveled to Syosset, New York for a Pension Board Meeting.

August 25 - participated in Seminary Day's Bazaar in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

August 30 - traveled to Syosset, New York for a External Affairs Meeting.

THE DIOCESAN DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
Martin Paluch (Chairman)

On February 2, 3, and 4 the Youth and Religious Education Department sponsored the annual winter retreat for our teens. Despite the weather it proved to be quite successful. A complete report can be found in the spring 1996 issue of Y.D.A., pages 21-24.

Another encouraging and successful event this year was the annual St. Tikhon's Summer Youth Camp held from June 22-29. The camp attracted a record participation of 134 children ages 7-13. A full story appears in the spring 1996 issue of Y.D.A., pages 7-13.

I would like to thank my co-worker, Mrs. Anna Marie Black, in this special annual event. Our chaplain from the Midwest Diocese, Fr. Basil Stoyka, and other dedicated priests, Matushki and lay workers (over 30) who made this significant event the success that it was.

Also, I want to thank Mr. John Guzey for his annual \$1,000 donation and continued support over these many years in building up our camp program. With the same great appreciation, I wish to thank Mr. Peter Holoviak of Holoviak's Church Supply for his generous gift of \$1,940, which allowed us to purchase fifty additional sleeping mats for the camp program.

On October 13-15, I attended the Orthodox Youth Workers Conference held in Baltimore at the Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This was a training session for all youth leaders of the O.C.A. Greek Archdiocese and Antiochian Churches. On April 27, I attended the Annual Diocesan Educational Workshop at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A full report can be found in the spring issue of the Y.D.A. Magazine, in the article Keys to Youth Ministry on page 38.

This calendar year has been full of events and wonderful surprises. There were many who labored and I want to acknowledge and thank the many devoted priests, matushki, and laity, both young and old, for helping to achieve our objectives for this year. It's going to be a difficult task to enhance the programs of this past year; with your prayers, however, and with your support and encouragement we will continue to improve our department.