



YOUR DIOCESE

Alive in Christ

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ♦ FALL 2010



100th Anniversary of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Minersville

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2 A Word from Our Bishop

6 Diocesan News

Annual Slavic Food Festival, Harrisburg

“Russian Days” Festival, Bethlehem

Lectures in the Diocese

OCEC Teacher Training in Harrisburg

9 Youth & Education

Sacred Vessels of the Holy Spirit

Anna Marie Black

12 Pastoral Reflections

The Pen is Mightier than the Sword:
Remembering Solzhenitsyn

Fr. Martin Browne

14 Parish Life

Minersville

Simpson

Gradyville

Williamsport

Mechanicsburg

Wilmington

Jermyn

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GIVING THOUGHT TO OUR STEPS

A Pastoral Letter From Bishop Tikhon to the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

In the book of Proverbs, we read the following: *A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.* With these words, the wise Solomon reminds us of the spiritual importance of preparation. Preparation is central to all aspects of our life as Orthodox Christians: from our everyday activities to our participation in the most sacred mysteries of the Church. We prepare for the coming day with our morning prayers; we begin every new work with the sign of the Cross; we examine our conscience before confession; we fast before receiving Holy Communion; and we enter into the yearly lenten periods as an anticipation of the Resurrection and eternal life.

As we approach our next assembly, on Nov. 19 and 20th, I would like to call the clergy and faithful of our diocese to focus on this work of spiritual preparation, not only for the business of the assembly (which also is important) but for the greater goal of the spiritual renewal of our diocesan life. The time has come for us to make difficult decisions if we are truly dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ and His mystical bride, the Holy Church, and if our desire is to live out the fullness of the divine reality of the Kingdom in our personal lives, in our parishes and in our diocese.

The following is a summary of a longer report I will present at the 2010 Diocesan Assembly and which will be available on the diocesan website at the beginning of November. In this Pastoral Letter, I am both reflecting on the past five years and outlining some concrete proposals for the next five years. I would ask each of you to prayerfully consider these proposals and to be prepared to discuss them at our assembly so that, as a diocesan family, we might begin to address the serious challenges facing our parishes, our clergy and the diocese as a whole.

Diocesan hierarch. This October 29th marks the fifth year of my installation as the Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, and I would like to express my commitment to continue serving this wonderful diocese and to devote myself to its growth in Christ. Having spent the last five years getting to know my parishes, my clergy and my faithful, I have learned much from each of them, including an understanding of the spiritual and administrative needs of the diocese. My responsibilities as a member of the Holy Synod, as Rector of St Tikhon's Seminary and as a member of the brotherhood of St Tikhon's Monastery have sometimes taken away from my ability to adequately address those spiritual and administrative needs, but I would like to affirm that my role as your diocesan hierarch remains the most clearly defined and the one in which I am most comfortable. It is my hope to devote myself more fully to the necessary work of the diocese over



A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

the next five years in the following ways:

1. Devoting myself to more consistent prayer, fasting and repentance through a renewed commitment to my monastic vows. Also, engaging in more serious study of patristic theology and ascetical literature in order to take a more active teaching role, which is one of the responsibilities of the bishop.
2. Entering into a deeper relationship with my clergy in order to help them personally and to encourage a greater sense of clergy brotherhood and to shepherd their sheep more effectively.
3. Making the pastoral needs of our parishes a priority by fostering inter-parish cooperation and spending more time at my cathedral and in the Philadelphia area.

The Diocesan Administration. Over the past five years, some important changes have taken place in the administration of our Diocese: the position of Chancellor was created, the former position of Secretary/Treasurer was separated and replaced by a Treasurer and an Administrative Assistant; the position of Aide to the Bishop was eliminated and the funds redirected to create the position of Director of Communications. Our Diocesan Assemblies have been expanded to two-day events, the frequency of Diocesan Council meetings has increased and the timeliness of our quarterly financial audits has been regularized. Finally, the Bishop's residence and all diocesan offices have been centralized in our current diocesan center. As we look to the next five years, I would like propose the following as goals to be fully implemented in our diocese by the year 2014:

1. Creation and implementation of Diocesan By-laws to serve as supplements to the OCA Statute. These by-laws will serve to clarify the functions and responsibilities of the administrative officers, the Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Assembly, etc.
2. Expansion of the positions of Administrative Assistant and Director of Communications to full time positions.
3. Relocation of the Diocesan Center to the Philadelphia area in order to facilitate the missionary and educational work of our diocese and as a means of focusing diocesan energies on the areas with the most potential for growth.

The Diocesan Parishes. By the grace of God, we have the same number of parishes (37) that we had in 2005. At the same time, we have not established any new missions during that period and several of our parishes are facing serious financial situations based on their numbers and their ability and/or willingness to support a priest and the work of the parish. This is a very serious matter that affects the entire diocese and not only those individual parishes. I would like to propose two areas that need development in our parishes over the next five years:

1. **Administrative housekeeping.** Just as an individual prepares for confession by making a thorough self-examination, so our parishes need to provide an accounting of their inner life. This is done through the forwarding of annual meeting minutes, census information, financial reports, budgets and other important documents to the Diocesan Administration. It is important for every member of the diocesan family to comply with this accounting for our parishes to be healthy, to discern their weaknesses are and to implement those things that will bring them back to health.
2. **Parish vitality.** At our Diocesan Assembly in November, I will be introducing a proposal to re-define our parishes based on their ability to support a full time priest and a full time existence as a parish. This proposal has been discussed at the Diocesan Council and also among the clergy. It is a way for each parish to acknowledge its real spiritual and financial standing and to provide a way for the diocese to assist our struggling parishes.



The Diocesan Clergy. The priesthood, the diaconate and all of the minor orders of the Church (including missionaries and teachers) are indispensable to the health of our parishes. Although nothing takes place without the grace of God, the possibility of our participation in that grace would be severely limited without the sacred ministers who serve Christ and His Church faithfully, day in and day out. The priesthood is not an occupation but a sacred calling. Without the clergy, there would be no pastoral visits, no confession and counseling, no baptisms or funerals. In the next five years, the following areas need to be addressed:

1. **Clergy health.** I would like to establish a network of spiritual and social support services for the clergy and their families as well as provide more frequent and smaller clergy retreats.
2. **Clergy compensation.** Each parish has received a clergy compensation review. I will be forwarding to each parish the median family income for that area and I would every parish to attain that median income for their priest, in accordance with the OCA clergy compensation guidelines.
3. **Clergy brotherhood** and Clergy continuing education are also areas that need to be developed.

Communications. Prior to 2004, communication within our diocese was limited to our diocesan magazine, *Alive in Christ*, which was published three times a year at a great cost to the diocese. In 2005 the creation of our diocesan website (doepa.org) introduced a new means of communication. Although the flow of news and information was sporadic at the beginning, the last two years have seen much improvement and timeliness in the posting of news and announcements within our diocese. At the same time, the new technology inspired a re-evaluation of the means by which we communicate with one another. The diocese was surveyed concerning several possible means of communication (website, newsletter, magazine) and the present format of a quarterly magazine of reduced pages was established and seems to be successfully keeping the diocese informed. Goals for the next five years would be:

1. Encouraging all of our parishes to establish their own websites which could be linked to the diocesan website (currently 19 parishes have websites).
2. Encourage more frequent contributions from our parishes to both the Diocesan website and *Alive in Christ*.

Our Diocesan Mission. Whatever gifts we have to share with our Church Community, and however we may be called to exercise the gifts bestowed upon us by the Lord, there is one thing that we all share in common: our Lord Jesus Christ and His divine and life-giving commandments. There are many commandments and many ways for us to fulfill them. But there is one commandment that surpasses the rest, and that is the commandment of love: *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?* Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* (Matthew 22:36-40)

Annual Slavic Food Festival ♦ Christ the Saviour Church ♦ Harrisburg

From Saturday, July 10th - Sunday, July 11th Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church invited our faithful, as well as members of the local community to the annual Slavic Food Fest. The two day event gave people an opportunity to sample home-made Slavic foods. In addition, the church was open for tours, where many people caught their “first glimpses” of Orthodoxy.



The "Russian Days" Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem has been held every year on the weekend after Labor Day for 29 years. A significant addition this year was the visit of the Icon, "She Who is Quick to Hear", brought from St. Tikhon's Monastery by Fr. Gabriel and Brother Stephen, with the blessing of the Abbot, Fr. Sergius. On Friday an Akathist was celebrated by Fr. Gabriel, Fr. James Mason and the Rector, Fr. David Mahaffey. On Saturday a Molieben was held by the same clergy in remembrance of 9/11. An extra special event this year was the wedding of Kelly Wolfe and James Brelsford on Sunday, sung by the Parish Choir under the direction of Reader Nicholas Lezinsky. The weather was good, crowds were large, and most of the food was sold out; what food wasn't sold out was donated to a local food kitchen.

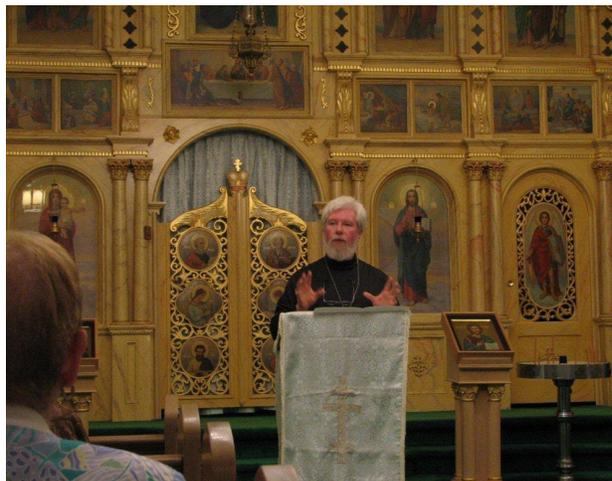


R U S S I A N D A Y S

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church ♦ Bethlehem, PA



Diocesan Lectures



On September 23, 2010 Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick introduced its Fall lecture series entitled: “Discover Original Christianity”. Father Wilbur Ellsworth delivered the first lecture to a group of thirty-six people, eight of whom were inquiring about the Orthodox Faith. Fr. Ellsworth is the pastor of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Warrenville, Illinois. Fr. Ellsworth spoke candidly about his journey from the Baptist Church and finding his home in the Orthodox Church. Fr. Martin Browne, rector of St. John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville, PA, was the second speaker of the series. He discussed the history of the Orthodox Christian Church.



On September 28th, Wesley J. Smith gave the first Lecture of the 2010 Fall Lecture Series entitled “Bioethics: Creating a Culture of Death?”, sponsored by the Diocese of Eastern PA and St. Tikhon’s Seminary. Mr. Smith gave a lunch time lecture at the seminary and then traveled to Philadelphia to speak at St. Stephen’s Cathedral. Both lectures were recorded and can be accessed on the seminary website: www.stots.edu.



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah presented “Stewardship of Divine Life” at Holy Cross Church in Williamsport on October 11, 2010



David Ambartsumian
Harrisburg Academy
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Dimitri Ressetar
Penn State University
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Dr. Janine M. Legg, Ph.D.
Concordia College and
University Graduate
School



Elizabeth Spaseff
Johnson & Wales Culinary
School
Christ the Saviour



Jessica Marie Taleff
Camp Hill High School
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Matthew Hadginske
York Suburban HS
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Nicholas Schilling
Penn State University
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Ronald Hancher Jr.
Penn State Harrisburg
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



On Saturday October 9, 2010 over 20 church school teachers and directors gathered at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church for an all-day training workshop. The conference, sponsored by the OCA Diocese of Eastern PA and the Department of Christian Education, was a Pan-Orthodox event and drew from parishes of various Orthodox jurisdictions from throughout South Central Pennsylvania. The theme "Training Ourselves and our Children in Godliness" accurately captured the essence of the workshop.



Yelena Ambartsumian
Fordham University
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg



Skye Elizabeth Hisiro
Susquehanna Township HS
Christ the Saviour
Harrisburg

2010 GRADUATES

(Above photos did not appear in the graduate issue of *Alive in Christ* due to editorial oversight)

When the calendar pages say July, children and teens are ready for the drive to South Canaan for St. Tikhon's Camp. They are eager for a week of swimming, sports, paddle boating on the lake, and meeting old friends.

Camp director Martin Paluch and his volunteer staff welcomed campers for the week July 3-9, 2010. The camp attracts campers from Pennsylvania and neighboring states. A separate teen program accommodates those campers who have returned year after year.

This year's theme, Sacred Vessels II, developed by Mrs. Anna Marie

Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning.

Campers viewed *Russian Orthodox Alaska* that showed the beginnings of an Orthodox presence from the time of the Russian fur traders and the missionary efforts of St. Herman of Alaska and St. Innocent. In workshops the campers created Time Lines of the lives of St. Herman and St. Innocent, as well as Sts. Patriarch Tikhon, Raphael of Brooklyn, and Nicholai of Zicha, whose lives converged at St. Tikhon's Monastery.

Archpriest John Perich led tours at the Metropolitan Theodosius Museum. As curator, Fr. Perich provided

were rained out. Those not wishing to hike participated in the camp simulation of the World Eskimo and Indian Olympics with its feats of strength, agility and endurance held each July in Alaska. Campers also had choices: To fish at Pickerell Pond, plant mustard seeds (reflective of one of the daily Gospels), learn cake decorating, or answer questions based on workshop content in the Answer Box activity. Some joined Fr. Stoyka for a tour of the monastery church.

For Friday evening's closing celebration, veteran thespians donned costumes to perform several skits depicting the life of St. Herman.

Sacred Vessels of the Holy Spirit

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp July 3-9, 2010

Black, children's program director, comes from the phrase "sacred vessels of the spirit," in Matins of the Vigil Service for the All-American Saints. This theme was chosen to honor certain North American saints who helped to establish our Orthodox Faith on the North American continent during the early years of our country's growth.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the canonization of St. Herman of Alaska and coincidentally also marks the 40th year since St. Tikhon's Summer Youth Camp has been held on monastery grounds. Children and teens attended Morning and Evening Prayers led by chaplain Archpriest Basil Stoyka and sang responses under the direction of Mrs. Lory Nescott, camp choir director. As it has every year, the liturgical component of camp culminated with campers singing responses for

considerable information about the exhibits that depict the history of the Orthodox presence in Alaska to the present. He also showed relics of some of the North American saints that now rest in the museum.

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON spoke to campers and ate lunch with them. Fr. Sergius, abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery, also greeted them. Throughout the week, the children had an opportunity to learn the process of iconography from Mrs. Susan Shiposki, an iconographer well known in our region. The children worked on three craft projects offered by Fr. Vladimir, a monk from Lorain, Ohio.

The children look forward each year to the hayride, two barbecues (thanks to Archpriest John Onofrey's kitchen crew), and the hike to Flat Rock. This year the bonfire and talent show

Martin Paluch gave his thoughts on the camp theme, and Mrs. Black urged children to remember the North American saints who are not mentioned in social studies textbooks and to learn from their examples of loving God.

The camp schedule was packed with offerings: to learn new skills, to pray, to have a glimpse of the monks who prayed for them, and to walk the very same grounds some North American saints have walked.

But most valuable for our youth is the experience to be with one another as Orthodox friends—to gather as the Church—with friendships that extend well beyond the camp years. Why, after all, do they return year after year?



The sixth annual Teen Camp program was a huge success, welcoming 46 students between 14 and 17 years of age from as far away as Florida! They spent the week participating in educational workshops with clergy and having fun in cultural classes while making lifelong friends with fellow Orthodox Christians. Highlights of the week included a tour of the monastery church with Fr. Nicodemus and a visit to the museum led by Fr. John Perich.

The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword: Remembering Solzhenitsyn

Fr. Martin Browne

In this age of digital communication, it is easy to forget the proverb that the pen is mightier than the sword. Remembering is a major part of our Orthodox faith and life as revealed in our Tradition. In the Divine Liturgy we pray before the elevation of the Holy Gifts, “remembering this saving commandment and all that has come to pass for us”, while our Service for the Departed finds its culmination in the singing of Memory Eternal!

August third provides an occasion for Orthodox Christians to remember in particular the well-worn proverb about the might of the pen, as it is the second anniversary of the falling asleep in the Lord of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, a prophetic voice of the Twentieth Century who dedicated his life to remembering the Truth about God and man, in the face of the great tyranny of the Soviet Union. Solzhenitsyn’s life of remembering had but one weapon, the pen in the service of the Truth, in the hands of a man whose faith was simple, determined in the face of immense force, because he knew that in the Truth is found freedom. His life is a witness to the truth that the pen is mightier than the sword because it began one year into the Soviet tyranny, December 11, 1918, and ended almost twenty years after it collapsed, August 3, 2008, in no small measure due to the writing, the remembering, of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

In the course of his long life, he produced many works, a choice selection of which were published in 2007 in *The Solzhenitsyn Reader: New and Essential Writings 1947–2005* (ISI Books). The most influential of these was his three volume *Gulag Archipelago, An Experiment in Literary Investigation*, a record and analysis of the country within a country of prison camps for those who dared to speak out against tyranny or whose words or actions made them suspect to the authorities. A brutal, inhuman, well engineered and systematic attempt at the destruction of human dignity, freedom human life itself, Solzhenitsyn revealed the Gulag as the epitome of the Soviet system and remembered some of the countless men and women who perished in its grip. His other great work is an epic study of the source and course of the revolution of 1917 entitled *The Red Wheel*. This 6000 page work was composed over a 50 year period studying particular times, events and persons responsible for the collapse of Russian civilization in the Communist takeover of November 1917.

The Soviet experience in general and the Gulag in particular were part of his life, having served an eight year term for a criticism of Stalin in a letter, with an additional three years of exile in Kazakhstan in the early 1950’s. His public literary reputation was made in the early 1960’s during

the Khrushchev period with the publication of his novel *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, on life in the Gulag. After this brief thaw, the repressive state recognized the danger Solzhenitsyn represented and so spent the next ten years harassing him in various ways, ultimately sending him into exile in 1974. For twenty years he labored in exile before returning to Russia in 1994, most of that time spent in Cavendish, Vermont.

Obviously, reading Solzhenitsyn’s major works requires commitment (and patience if you do not read Russian as two of the four volumes of *The Red Wheel* are not translated). But there are several speeches and letters of his, written before and during his exile, which are easily readable and highly recommended for the insights they offer, not simply into the Russian experience, but the human experience of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

At the outset of his arrest and exile, he issued a statement entitled *Live Not by Lies!* Here he identified lies as the root of violence, which receives its power from people’s willing acceptance of lies.

When people renounce lies, lies simply cease to exist. Like parasites, they can only survive when attached to a person. This truth, says Solzhenitsyn, presents every person with a choice: be a witting servant

Fr. Thomas Hopko's Maxims

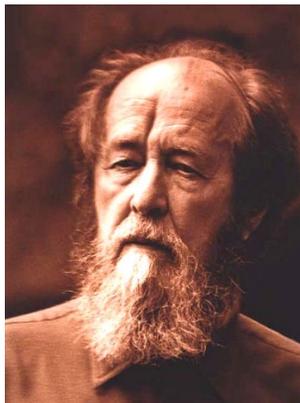
of lies or an honest man worthy of respect(558). This choice, for truth or against it, is an essential part of the human person, for as he wrote in *The Gulag Archipelago*, the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart, and through all human hearts.

This line in the human heart is the line which splits the world into camps which he identified in his Harvard University address of 1978, *A World Split Apart*, as a godless humanism in which man is the measure of all things and material satisfaction is taken as the goal of human existence, and another that recognizes the reality of God, and the essential relationship of man and all creation to Him. This controversial address did not praise the West and blame the East, but identified spiritual illness in the West in the decline of courage, an exclusive focus on maximum freedom and material wealth, with human relationships reduced to legal contracts which defined rights and obligations, and removed any sense of voluntary self-restraint. The result is: We have placed too much hope in politics and social reforms, only to find out that we were deprived of our most precious possession: our spiritual life.

Five years later, in his Templeton Address, Solzhenitsyn identified the cause of the spiritual catastrophe that threatened all civilization in a proverb of his Russian youth which was the title of his address, *Men Have Forgotten God*. Atheism is the

source of so much of the sickness we see around us and experience ourselves, not simply theoretical atheism, but practical atheism, living as if God does not exist because we have forgotten God. His conclusion was simple: All attempts to find a way out of the plight of today's world are fruitless unless we redirect our consciousness, in repentance, to the Creator of all: Without this, no exit will be illumined, and we shall seek it in vain. (583)

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is a witness to the power of the pen over the sword, to the power of Truth over lies, to the importance of remembering, especially remembering God. As one formed in the crucible of modern tyranny, he remains a powerful witness in his solitary quest and dedication, and as one speaking from profound experience, informed by Orthodox Christianity, he is worthy of our attention, admiration, and emulation in living not by lies and remembering God. May his witness be remembered by us, but more importantly may he live in the Eternal Memory of Almighty God. *Vechnaya pamyat!*



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
1918- 2008

22. Exercise regularly
23. Live a day, even a part of a day, at a time
24. Be totally honest, first of all with yourself
25. Be faithful in little things
26. Do your work, then forget it
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first
28. Face reality
29. Be grateful
30. Be cheerful
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small
32. Never bring attention to yourself
33. Listen when people talk to you
34. Be awake and attentive, fully present where you are
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary
36. Speak simply, clearly, firmly, directly
37. Flee imagination, fantasy, analysis, figuring things out
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance
39. Don't complain, grumble, murmur or whine
40. Don't seek or expect pity or praise
41. Don't compare yourself with anyone
42. Don't judge anyone for anything
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything
44. Don't defend or justify yourself
45. Be defined and bound by God, not people
46. Accept criticism gracefully and test it carefully
47. Give advice only when asked or when it is your duty
48. Do nothing for people that they can and should do for themselves
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice
50. Be merciful with yourself and others
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath
52. Focus on God and light, and never on darkness, temptation and sin
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your faults serenely, under God's mercy
54. When you fall, get up immediately and start over
55. Get help when you need it, without fear or shame

PARISH & FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

Ss. Peter and Paul, Minersville

100th Anniversary

On Sunday, September 9th, Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Minersville celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It was an especially joyous occasion because Fr. Michael and Matushka Valeria's son, Gregory, was ordained to the diaconate. Since its founding in 1910, the faithful have worked diligently to build up the presence of the Orthodox Christian Church in Minersville. With its humble beginnings in a private home, the dedicated members of Ss. Peter and Paul Church built the church which now stands in 1937. The entire church history can be found on the diocesan website (www.doepa.org) under Parish Listings. More photographs from the event can also be viewed on the News & Events page of the website.



St. Basil, Simpson



Congratulations to Mrs. Julia Mikulak, of St. Basil's Church in Simpson, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 27th.

St. Michael, Wilmington



On Sunday, October 10, His Grace Bishop Tikhon visited St. Michael Church in Wilmington, Delaware, for their 95th Anniversary and consecration of a new hall. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, was also present. Together, along with church rector, Fr. James Weremedic and several diocesan priests, they concelebrated the Divine Liturgy.

St. Herman, Gradyville



On August 17th about 30 parishoners and friends of St. Herman of Alaska, Gradyville PA visited St. Tikhon's monastery. V. Rev. John Perich, St. Herman's parish priest, provided a tour of the Icon Museum, Church, bell tower and dormitory. For some, it was their first visit to the monastery.

Holy Cross, Williamsport



On Saturday, July 31, Bishop Tikhon presided at the sacramental reception into the Holy Orthodox Church of the Almasy and Barr Families at Holy Cross.

Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg



During the month of August, the youth of Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg held a charity collection (reflecting on the Dormition Fast's call to charity) to benefit the Harrisburg Hospital's youth. It was observed that the toys at the hospital were a bit dated and so we would raise money and then buy new toys for the youth staying at the Hospital. On Saturday, September 4, before Great Vespers, the youth group took the money raised, divided it into groups and purchased toys from Toys R Us. On Sunday, October 3 the youth of our parish went to Harrisburg Hospital after Fellowship Hour and personally delivered the gifts to the patients and staff of the hospital. What a wonderful opportunity to learn about charity and giving in a very hands-on way. Special thanks to Joseph and Abby Baia for organizing the project.



Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak made his annual visit to Dubrinich, Ukraine, in July. He visited St. Mary's Orthodox Church, where Priest Vasily Pope is the Rector. The parish has been adopted by St. Michael's Church in Jermyn and donations have been made to St. Mary's. Donations were used to purchase carpeting, a new heating system, church school addition, and other items to improve the church.



On Sunday, September 12th, His Grace made a pastoral visit to St. Mary's Church in Coaldale. Bishop Tikhon tonsured Nathaniel Mathewson, Fr. Daniel's son, to be a reader. Also pictured is Fr. Paul Ropitsky.



Continue to support the opening of Agia Sophia!

View the 2009 Annual Report and 2010 Quick Facts at www.doepa.org

Bishop Tikhon's Schedule

November 7
Divine Liturgy at St Michael's in Jermyn

November 14
Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas in Bethlehem;
Burning of Mortgage for Hall

November 15-18
Fall Session of the Holy Synod, Syosset, NY

November 19-20
Diocesan Assembly
St. Nicholas, Bethelhem

November 20-21
Vigil and Divine Liturgy at St Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia
Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God

November 29
Participation in Roundtable Discussion on Religion and Politics at Kutztown University

December 5-6
Youth Retreat, Vespers and Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church in Philadelphia

Visit www.doepa.org for more information!