



Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission
Mechanicsburg, PA
Report to the Diocesan Assembly,
November 19-20, 2010

Since last year, many wonderful events have come to pass, not to mention some difficult ones as well. As we all experienced, 2010 was a peculiar year because Pascha was VERY early, so naturally Great Lent started early as well. We rejoiced that almost the whole parish came to Forgiveness Vespers held on the evening of February 14, marking a wonderful start to the Holy Season. We were blessed during Lent with many beautiful services and also some welcomed guests. On February 26, His Grace, our Bishop Tikhon visited for a Presanctified Liturgy. A few weeks later on March 10, we were all shocked and honored to hear that His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America surprised us for a visit at a Presanctified Liturgy.

Great Lent closed with much joy as we received the whole Baia Family (Joseph, Maria, Noah, Jacob, & Ian) as well as Malia Pope, Christine Kelly, and Moses Tomes into the Church through the Rite of Holy Chrismation. As usual Pascha was celebrated with great joy!

In May, in an effort to raise awareness of the "Agia Sophia" Coffee House project, we started a weekly noontime Bible Study in downtown Harrisburg. Fr. Stephen Vernak and Fr. Timothy alternate leading the study each week with a steady group of up to 15 souls (Orthodox, and the general public as well!) joining in weekly. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

In June, in addition to our Thursday morning Akathist, we added a weekly daily Vespers on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm followed by a religious education program. We have already had an overview series on the I Epistle of John, a traditional Bible Study on the Epistles of Peter, and currently a study on the Book of Genesis. Both the service and the classes are well attended with much participation from the faithful.

Holy Apostles community was profoundly saddened in early June at the sudden repose of our dear parishioner, Robert Wingert. Due to our spatial difficulties we were allowed to serve the Funeral at St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Oberlin-Steelton. Some five months later, the loss of our dear Rob is still felt and we all miss him greatly. We continually pray that his Memory be Eternal!

The rest of June was full, as usual, with our annual participation in Mechanicsburg's Jubilee Day, and another visit made by Bishop Tikhon which began the 6th Anniversary year of Holy Apostles. In July, we held our annual Church Picnic & Vespers in the Park as well as our traditional Blessing of Vehicles on the Sunday closest to the feast of the Prophet Elijah.

An especially notable series of events would be the plethora of babies born to our community this past summer. We had four babies (Julia Sremanak, Levi Potteiger, Elijah Hojnicky, and Ellen Crosby) born between June and September! May God continue to grant the increase, and for our part, we'll just keep dunkin' them as they come!

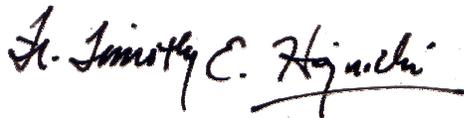
In August, a special new Dormition Shroud was blessed and used for the feast with great festivity as we served a full Vigil service. This shroud was donated in memory of Robert Wingert. The summer also saw the formation of a parish Youth Group with events planned for the coming months specifically focusing on recreational fellowship and service projects. For their first major project, on the Sunday's in August, collections were taken to raise money to buy toys for the youth of the Harrisburg Hospital. The toys were delivered by almost 20 of the children to the hospital in early October.

September also had us welcome two new catechumens, Shannon Jacka, and Katie Gaskill, into the Church. Church School and our catechism "Orthodoxy 101" began again this Fall with over 40 students registered for Church School!

This brings us back to the present. We recently held our annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction on October 24. From this event, we raised close to \$10,000 that will be completely applied towards our \$215,000 mortgage which we hope to retire by the end of 2011.

Glory to God for all things!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Timothy C. Hojnicky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.