

***“Therefore, my beloved brethren” St. Paul tells the Corinthians, “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1Cor.15:58)***

We take this opportunity at this 48th Diocesan Assembly held at Holy Cross Church, in the city of Williamsport, to congratulate His Grace, Bishop TIKHON who on October 29<sup>th</sup> marked his sixth year of installation as our Diocesan Hierarch. In prayerfully reflecting on this anniversary, we are given an occasion to demonstrate our love and support for our Bishop and our beloved diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.

In this sacred assembly we will be given an opportunity to worship and pray together and to do the work of the Church. A Diocesan Assembly can also be a fresh start, a new beginning, with a new forum every year to evaluate our programs and to carefully gauge the progress we have made or have not made. We are also called to actively engage each other and discern the will of God in our lives and how each of us can utilize our talents for the continual support of our church and diocese. However, *“Let us not become, conceited, provoking one another, envying one another” (Gal.5:26)* The task as the diocese and in rebuilding our Churches is enormous, *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart” (Gal. 6:9)*

By divine providence, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, as our spiritual leader. Bishop Tikhon has had the awesome responsibility and weight of his high office in shepherding and guiding the priests and parishes in the ecclesial work of our diocese. This past year, the Revitalization Committee has held many meetings and has been hard at work under the guidance of our Bishop. The task of the Revitalization Committee is to begin to implement the work of the committee and to inaugurate a revitalization process in our parishes, so we can deal with the enormous shared responsibility in growing our church and diocese. A summary report on the revitalization committee will be given at this assembly.

In the amalgamation of being prudent and doing the work of the Church, sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. In this Assembly we pray that we all will have the courage to make decisions which will aid in the development of our parishes and the spiritual and physical growth of our diocese. *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Gal.6:10)*

In reviewing the itinerary of our Bishop we see an incredible laborer with spiritual and heartfelt strength, combined with great zeal and love for Christ and the Orthodox Church. Bishop Tikhon has been consecrated for us, to help carry out and oversee the work of our Church. In this sacred council, let us intensify our personal prayer for our Bishop, so that he may continue to guide us; *“with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph.4:2-3)* Included (**Appendix A**) with my report is the calendar of significant activities and events of His Grace, Bishop Tikhon.

### **The Diocesan Council**

Since the last Diocesan Assembly, the Council has met four times: February 10th, May 12th, August 11th, and November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Diocesan Council meetings are long, however, much is discussed and the meetings are very productive. Each meeting heard reports from the Bishop, Chancellor, and Treasurer and with the auditors presenting a report at two of the four meetings. Issues of diocesan interest and policy were discussed as they relate to local and national issues. Recommendations and resolutions were made and acted upon by the appropriate diocesan authorities and communicated to

clergy and lay leadership in the parishes as necessary. Please see “Diocesan Council Secretary Report” for complete details.

### **Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSP)**

The substance of the Council’s work is reflected in the reports of its members to the Assembly. However, one major task this year was to get our parishes in compliance with the *Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSP)* This subject was discussed at length and communicated to the Deans of our Diocese for implementation.

This document was approved by the Holy Synod of Bishop of the Orthodox Church in America in 2003 and became effective immediately within each diocese and institution of the OCA. Each diocese is required to forward a yearly report of compliance with the PSP, and this report is to include the confirmation of each parish’s compliance.

It is mandatory that each parish council member be given a personal copy of the *Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct* and be asked to sign a form stating that they have read it and have accepted it as binding on the parish. This should be done YEARLY and recorded in the council minutes.

Letters and follow up letters were sent to the rectors of our parishes in July of this year, asking for compliance with the PSP. Included (**Appendix B**) with my report on the PSP is the percentage of compliance in each category.

### **The Diocesan Census**

Included as an appendix to my report are the Diocesan Census results (**Appendix C**) for this year for the (37) parishes in our diocese. We thank everyone for their participation in completing this task and we are also very grateful to Matushka Sandra Kopestonsky, our Administrative Assistant, for the very careful entry of each parish membership. In 2010 the members in good standing are 2,922 adults, and the total communicants are 3,856.

### **Clergy Movements**

Ordinations: Deacon John Nightingale  
Deacon Seraphim Reynolds

Depositions: Neal Carrigan

Suspensions: Deacon Michael Pasonick

Transfers: Father Andrew Bartek

Funerals: Matushka Olga Kovach

**APPENDIX A**  
**DIOCESAN CALENDAR -- 2011 SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**January**

- 9 Blessing of Waters, Harrisburg
- 19 Old Style Theophany, Divine Liturgy St. Stephen's, Philadelphia
- 24 March for Life
- 28 Kursk Root Icon, St. Michael Church, Jermyn
- 29 Kursk Root Icon, Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre  
Pro-Life Breakfast, Scranton
- 30 Divine Liturgy, St. Basil's Church, Simpson

**February**

- 4-6 Teen Winter Retreat
- 6 Divine Liturgy, Georgian Monastery
- 9 Holy Annunciation, Berwick, Parish Council Meeting
- 10 Diocesan Council Meeting
- 14 Orphanage Board Meeting
- 20 Divine Liturgy, St. Stephen's, Philadelphia
- 27 Divine Liturgy, All Saints, Olyphant

**March**

- 6 Divine Liturgy, Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick
- 11 Presanctified Liturgy, Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg  
Vespers, Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg  
Funeral, Matushka Olga Kovach
- 12 Divine Liturgy in Harrisburg  
Retreat with Fr. Michael Oleksa
- 13 Divine Liturgy, St Mark, Wrightstown  
Sunday of Orthodoxy Service: St Stephen's Cathedral
- 20 Divine Liturgy, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Church, St Clair  
Mission Service: St Nicholas, Olyphant
- 26-27 Divine Liturgy, Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg  
Mission Service: Holy Ascension, Frackville
- 31 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Deanery clergy, SS Peter & Paul Church, Minersville  
Deanery Meeting with questions and answers from Bishop

**April**

- 3 Divine Liturgy, St. Michael's Church, Jermyn  
Mission Vespers: St. Michael's Church, Old Forge
- 9 Vespers - Bucknell OCF
- 10 Divine Liturgy: Bucknell OCF  
Orthodox Christian Life and Retreat  
Mission Service: Holy Cross, Williamsport
- 17 (Palm Sunday) Liturgy: Holy Resurrection, Wilkes-Barre  
Bridegroom Matins at St Tikhon's Monastery
- 20 Holy Unction, Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre
- 26 Bright Tuesday Liturgy, Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg

**May**

- 7 Divine liturgy, St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Holy Resurrection Church, Wilkes-Barre
- 8 Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Justinian, St. Andrew's Cathedral (Moscow Patriarchate)
- 12 Diocesan Council Meeting

- 18 Visit Stroudsburg Preschool
- 24 OCA/ROCOR Concelebration, St. Tikhon's Monastery Church, South Canaan
- 30 Pilgrimage, St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan

### June

- 5 Divine Liturgy and Annual Meeting, SS Peter and Paul Church, Uniondale
- 7 Spiritual Court
- 9 Wilkes-Barre Deanery, Pittston Perkins
- 12 Holy Pentecost, Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg
- 13 Diocesan Court Meeting
- 15 Philadelphia Deanery Meeting, Bethlehem  
All Saints Reconsecration Meeting, Olyphant
- 18 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. John the Baptist Church, Edwardsville
- 25 Revitalization Committee meeting, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem
- 30 Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua, Meeting  
Revitalization Committee conference call

### July

- 1 Reconsecration Meeting, All Saints Church, Olyphant
- 3-9 St. Tikhon's Summer Camp
- 7 Revitalization Committee conference call
- 9 Divine Liturgy, Catasauqua
- 10 Divine Liturgy, St. Basil's Church, Simpson
- 27 Akathist, St. Panteleimon - Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick
- 30 Revitalization Meeting, McAdoo
- 31 Divine Liturgy, Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg  
Blessing of Agia Sophia Coffee House, Harrisburg

### August

- 2 Revitalization Committee conference call
- 7 Divine Liturgy, St. John the Baptist Church, Nanticoke
- 9 St. Basil's, Simpson, Council Meeting
- 11 Diocesan Council Meeting, Allentown, soup kitchen
- 14 Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, Olyphant, and ordination of Deacon John Nightingale
- 15 Divine Liturgy, St. Mary's, Philadelphia
- 16 Revitalization Committee conference call
- 22 Revitalization Committee conference call
- 29 Revitalization Committee conference call

### September

- 7 Dr. Englehardt Lecture, University of Pennsylvania
- 8 Dr. Englehardt Lecture, University of Scranton
- 10 Dr. Englehardt Lecture, Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg
- 11 9-11 Service and Blessing of Fire Trucks, All Saints Church, Olyphant
- 11 Divine Liturgy, St. Mary's Church, Coaldale  
Dr. Englehardt Lecture, Emmaus
- 16-17 Reconsecration of All Saints Church, Olyphant
- 18 Divine Liturgy, St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville
- 20 Clergy workshop on revitalization, Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg
- 24 Divine Liturgy, Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Father Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia Harris
- 25 Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas, Olyphant, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fr. Fetcho

**October**

- 9 St. Tikhon's Founder's Day Dinner & Reception  
Hawaii Icon, St. Nicholas Church, Olyphant
- 13-14 Toronto House Visit
- 16 Liturgy, Burning of Mortgage, Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg, and ordination of  
Deacon Seraphim Reynolds
- 22 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. John the Baptist, Nanticoke
- 23 Divine Liturgy, Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg
- 25 Revitalization Committee conference call
- 31-November 4 All American Council, Seattle, WA

**November**

- 15 Diocesan Council Meeting, Agia Sophia Coffee House, Harrisburg
- 17 Wilkes-Barre Deanery Meeting, Perkins Pancake House, Pittston
- 19 Revitalization Meeting, Catasauqua
- 23 Akathist of Thanksgiving, Holy Trinity Cathedral (Greek Orthodox), Harrisburg

**December**

- 3 Diocesan Assembly, Williamsport

**APPENDIX B**  
**2011 Letter of Compliance with PSP**



**Annual Diocesan Compliance Report  
 For Sexual Misconduct Guidelines**

Required Action	Percent Compliance*	Notes and Comments
<b>DIOCESAN HIERARCH RESPONSIBILITY</b>		
Distribution of PSP by Diocesan Hierarchs to all parishes and institutions [4.02b]	100%	7/14/2010 - Distribution of PSP and Template to all parishes 8/31/2010 - Follow-up memo
Documented adoption of PSP by each parish council in council minutes [4.02b]	94%	2 parishes in process
Implementation by parishes of screening program for laypersons having more than incidental contact with minors [11.02]	61%	
Applications, criminal background check and training of subject laypersons [11.03]	61%	
Written documentation of all verifications of applications [11.04b]	55%	
Adoption and implementation by each parish of written parish-sponsored youth event transportation policy [12.05]	64%	Diocesan Transportation Policy Template Developed and Distributed to All Parishes
Exceptions to PSP 11.02-11.05 by Diocesan Hierarch sent to ORSMA [11.06]	—	no exceptions this year
Diocesan Hierarch to require persons subject to 11.02 and each parish council member to be given a copy of the PSP, to read it and to certify in written form their commitment to comply with the PSP, such certification to be kept in parish files [13.02]	92%	3 parishes in process
Each diocese shall develop and implement a child sexual abuse prevention training program that must be completed by every person subject to the requirements of PSP 11.02 [13.01a]	0%	No training program developed. 1 presentation by legal counsel to Diocesan Assembly 1 presentation by Advocate Mr. Van Wachen at Assembly Audio-visual material distributed

\* Note: For parish related actions, percent compliance equals 100 times the ratio of number of complying parishes / institutions to the total number of parishes / institutions in the Diocese.