

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Annual Treasurer's Report
Priest Raymond Martin Browne, Diocesan Treasurer

Your Grace, Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Your Grace, Bishop MARK, Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst!

Fiscal Year and Budget

Last year's Diocesan Assembly approved moving the Fiscal Year to the calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31st. It was agreed that this year's Diocesan Treasurer's Reports would include the period from November 1, 2011 (the previous beginning of the Fiscal Year) to December 31, 2012. Consequently the Financial Reports for the Assembly will be posted in early January once the year is closed out. As in past years, quarterly audits have been carried out, details of which are to be found in the Auditor's Report. Once again I wish to express my thanks to David Yeosock, Protodeacon Sergei Kapral and Mat. Jennifer Cantrell for their conscientious oversight and assistance.

Since the Budget is a yearly document, the proposed Budget for 2013 which was approved by the Diocesan Council for presentation to the Assembly is based on the 12 month cycle of Income and Expenses from November 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012. This provides an "apples to apples" basis for comparison between actual and proposed expenditures for the FY 2013. The Proposed Budget for 2013 includes annotations explaining changes in expenditures; however, two items are of note here. While the Proposal does not include an increase in the total assessment for the parishes, it does include a \$10 increase in the Diocesan Assessment due to an equal reduction in the National Assessment, the result of a resolution passed at the 16th All American Council in Seattle, Washington in 2011. Additionally, the budget includes an increase in the Bishop's salary of \$5000, with an additional \$5000 budgeted for Episcopal Selection expenses. The 2014 Budget would include this latter amount in the bishop's salary.

Chancellor and Treasurers Meeting at Syosset:

As noted on the OCA website and The Orthodox Church magazine, first ever meeting of Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurer's was held in Syosset in January 2012. This two day meeting had as its focus a discussion of funding both diocesan and national administration in light of the resolution of the 16th AAC in Seattle that called for a three year reduction in the National Assessment. The meeting was very productive, offering the dioceses the opportunity to speak to each other about the challenges and opportunities they are facing. Two major developments coming out of the meeting was the desire to reduce Assessments in a way that did not cripple the Central Administration but neither adversely affected the dioceses and the desire to meet again in 2013 with an eye to annual meetings. Meeting the other treasurers, exchanging ideas and advice, recognizing the similarities and differences of our dioceses in an honest, respectful and mutually supportive atmosphere was a great benefit and one I look forward to experiencing this year again.

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Revitalization

In our discussions at Syosset, all the Chancellor's and Treasurer's agreed that any funds "saved" by a reduction in the National Assessment should be used for Diocesan/Parish Revitalization. Thus allocations in our Proposed Budget have been made with this in mind in the areas of Christian Education, Clergy Continuing Education, Parish and Clergy Assistance. As the clergy of the diocese take their Parish Councils through the PHIM in the coming year, it is expected there will be a need for assistance in parishes which seek to revitalize. The monies allocated are intended to provide seed opportunities for clergy and parish development, recognizing the importance of a well-equipped and spiritually-healthy clergy, as well as a well-educated and active lay ministry. Parishes seeking assistance should provide written requests for specific projects with estimated costs and an indication of parish financial commitment.

A key component of revitalization is youth ministry, not only in the form of education, but also spiritual formation in the form of retreats and mission projects. Annual events such as the Teen Retreat, which will be subsidized for maximal participation, and St. Tikhon's Summer Camp, which is a Diocesan program for which a limited number of scholarships will be provided by the diocese, are keys to developing a future adult laity that is bound not only by common faith, but by personal relationships which transcend parishes and even dioceses.

Special Collections: This year included two special Diocesan Collections.

Nanticoke: \$34,220.90

The first one was in response to the fire in the rectory of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Nanticoke. While others also established funds for relief and assistance for Fr. Adam Sexton and his family, including St. Tikhon's Seminary and the Nanticoke Fire Department, the Diocesan Collection was for the parish needs above those covered by insurance. A total of \$34,220.90 was collected, though \$8000 of those funds indicated the Sexton Family. The majority of the money was presented to the parish by His Eminence, Archbishop TIKHON during a pastoral visit on the Nativity of St. John, with an additional check for funds received after, \$1200, sent by check in July. St. John the Baptist parish gave Fr. Adam a check for the \$8000.

The money collected was put into a restricted Pennstar account, St. John the Baptist Nanticoke Relief Fund which has been closed with the distribution of the funds. Each of the donations was acknowledged by letter, signed by Archbishop TIKHON.

Archbishop/Metropolitan Vestments: \$5,094

Following the elevation of Bishop TIKHON to Archbishop in May, the deans suggested a special collection to provide His Eminence with a new set of vestments as a gift from the diocese for his elevation. A total of \$5094 was collected. Approximately \$400 was spent to purchase two crosses for his klobuk. Due to his schedule, His Eminence was unable to look for a set of vestments before his election as Metropolitan

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in November. At the Diocesan Council meeting on November 29th it was agreed that the balance collected would be used for vestments as a gift to His Beatitude from the diocese on his election as Metropolitan. An initial purchase of a miter was made and presented to His Beatitude at the Diocesan Farewell Dinner on December 4th. The Chancellor has discussed with His Beatitude the preferences for a new set and opportunities for measurements and obtaining them.

Funds collected were deposited in the general account, but a detailed log was kept of the donations and acknowledgements sent to the parishes.

Continuing Education

His Eminence Archbishop TIKHON initiated a program of Continuing Education for the clergy of the diocese which began on September 20th in Bethlehem. Subsequent sessions were on October 18th in Stroudsburg and November 29th in Berwick. Plans are underway to have three more sessions, in February, March and April. The plan is to have an annual series of speakers on topics that are relevant to the ministry of the pastors of our diocese to better enable us to serve the people entrusted to our care. So far speakers have addressed legal issues, parish and personal, canons on marriage, and the challenges to our communities in the form of gangs, drugs and associated criminality. Funds were expended for the speakers and for refreshments and all of the sessions received positive feedback. Funds are included for continuation of this program, including bringing speakers from other parts of the country who are deemed especially equipped to offer guidance to our clergy.

Another component of this are the two clergy retreats held in Great Lent and Advent. This year they were both held at Holy Protection Greek Orthodox Monastery in White Haven. The February retreat was led by Fr. Thomas Hopko and the Advent retreat by His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek.

Transition:

Clearly, the most significant development of the past year was the election of His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON. There was minimal disruption to the administration of the diocese due to the leadership of His Beatitude, His Grace Bishop Melchisedek, and His Grace Bishop Mark. A meeting of the three hierarchs along with the chancellor and treasurer on November 20th resulted in the following decisions regarding the financial administration of the diocese. His Grace Bishop Mark replaced His Beatitude as signatory on checks, the bishop's salary and pension will be paid to/for Bishop Mark, who is also living at the Diocesan Center. His Grace Bishop Melchisedek will be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses, if any, for his duties as locum tenens. Monies for the latter will be charged to the Episcopal Search line.

The Diocesan Car is currently under use by His Beatitude until the end of the year. At that point it will be available for Bishop Mark. Currently Bishop Mark is using his own car and receiving reimbursement for travel. His Beatitude has discussed leaving behind property he purchased at the Diocesan Center, in return for which some items he would like to take are given to him, though he offered to provide compensation for them.

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Diocesan Assets

It is hoped that the transaction regarding the land under the Diocesan Center will be completed in February and at that time the Diocese will acquire title to the house and land. A valuation will be done once the transaction is complete and will be reflected in next year's report. David Yeosock sits on the Orphanage Board as our diocesan representative and can answer questions regarding the progress of this issue during the past year; however the most immediate cause of the delay was the resignation of Metropolitan Jonah, which left the Board without a chair. With the election of a new Metropolitan and the completion of the property subdivision, it is hoped this can move forward.

The Car Repayment Fund continues, though the account was changed from Wells Fargo to Pennstar. The reason for the transfer was twofold, the quality of customer service and convenience.

The CD is still with Pennstar and is worth \$50,375.11.

Conclusion

In closing I offer my thanks to His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON. for the opportunity to serve as his Treasurer for the past six years and to His Grace Bishop Melchisedek and His Grace, Bishop Mark, for their guidance and support in this time of transition, to all the members of the Diocesan Council for their stewardship, and to all the Rectors and Parish Treasurers for their assistance and patience.