

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2015 Diocesan Assembly

V. Rev. Nicholas J. Solak, Dean
Secretary: Rev. Paul Schellbach

V. Rev. David Shewczyk, Assistant Dean
Treasurer: Rev. George Volkovinsky

Glory to Jesus Christ!

WORSHIP: Many parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery have taken the year 2014 to adjust to new pastoral assignments. Throughout the year, Bishop Mark and Father John have met with the newly assigned priests, their parish leadership and the community to help with transition and adjustment.

Father Joseph Martin retired from 49 years of active parish ministry in the Fall of 2014. Father Timothy Cremeens has been assigned to Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

Saint John's Parish in Nanticoke continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint John's Parish in Dundaff continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Uniondale continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Holy Resurrection Parish in Alden Station continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint Vladimir's Parish in Lopez continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Trinity** in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Cross** in Williamsport, **Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **Saint Nicholas** in Olyphant, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, and **Holy Annunciation** in Berwick continue to be blessed by the diligent and faithful service and pastorship of their longstanding priests.

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church continues to be a part of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

Clergy and faithful gathered during the season of Great Lent for Lenten Mission Vespers and other Services. These services were held at:

- Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. V. Rev. Stephen Voytovich was the guest homilist.
- Saint Basil in Simpson
- Saint John in Edwardsville
- Saint Michael in Old Forge
- Saint Vladimir in Lopez
- Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre

The 2015 Lenten Mission Services are scheduled to be:

- Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre - V. Rev. John Jillions is scheduled to be the guest homilist.
- Saint Nicholas in Olyphant
- Holy Cross in Williamsport.
- Holy Annunciation in Berwick.
- Saint Michaels in Jermyn.
- Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

FELLOWSHIP: Fellowship accompanies most diocesan and deanery services and events.

Two Deanery meeting were held during the course of 2014.

1. A meeting was held at Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary Outreach Center at 932 Robinson Street in Scranton, PA on Friday, June 12th. Deanery Clergy learned more about this outreach program as a part of their meeting.
2. A regular meeting was held September 2 at All Saint's in Olyphant. At this meeting, Father Paul Schellbach was elected Deanery Secretary and Father George Volkovinsky was elected Deanery Treasurer.

Our Deanery includes several retired clergy and 'unattached' clergy who enhance the clergy brotherhood and provide tremendous help in ministering at our many vacant parishes.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Educational and outreach activities of the parishes in the deanery continues. Many parishes host Fall lectures and Lenten lectures. Some of the parishes in the Wilkes-Barre area join together for vacation bible schools. Concerts and ethnic festivals were also held.

The Clergy Continuing Education held throughout the year were attended my many, but not all, deanery clergy.

MINISTRY: Parishes of the deanery continue to perform the sacraments of the Church, visit the sick and infirm, feed the hungry and poor, minister to the imprisoned and preach the gospel in their communities.

Of significant concern in the life of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery is the decline in census from many of the parishes. It is anticipated the some parish will be facing closure in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Nicholas J Solak, Dean