

Office of Education and Curriculum

Report to the 2016 Diocesan Assembly

Submitted by: Maria Proch

Women's Retreat:

Over seventy women representing the Diocese of Eastern PA, Diocese of New York/ New Jersey, Antiochian Archdiocese, ROCOR, and the Greek Archdiocese attended the Annual Women's Retreat held at St. Tikhon's Seminary sponsored by the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA.

The topics for the 2015 retreat were: "**Orthodox Living in the Modern World- Steps to Spiritual Transformation,**" presented by **Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery**. He spoke about practical ways to incorporate our Christian Life and our Everyday Lives. This is a challenge for many, but with prayer and spiritual guidance this can be achieved. He fielded many questions from the women in attendance.

The morning session was followed by lunch and time to walk the grounds of the Monastery.

The afternoon session began with a very informative talk by **Carole J. Fair**, Award Winning Author, and a member of Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg, titled, "**From Illness to Wellness- My Journey with God to a Kidney Transplant.**" She spoke about her journey to receive a kidney transplant and the support she received. She also presented the women with staggering statistics about kidney disease among the American population. She also answered questions from the audience.

Those attending the retreat were given a survey to complete, and 98% of the women asked for Fr. Sergius to return and speak about the Mysteries of the Church, Living in Today's Society, and Spirituality.

Some of the attendees asked if there can be more than one retreat held throughout the year, A few women suggested the Philadelphia area as an option for an additional retreat.

As a result of the survey, **Archimandrite Sergius**, will speak at the 2016 Retreat to be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016. An additional speaker will address the women in the afternoon. Suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

The retreat is basically self-sufficient and is open to all women within the diocese. However, I am asking for the retreat to be advertised in the parish bulletins.

Memorial Day at St. Tikhon's:

The Department once again sponsored a Youth Activity Booth on Memorial Day. Activities included: flower planting, making of sand art bookmarkers, and completing activities from the Lives of the Saints books found online at dce.oca.org.

Thirty-five young people from the ages of three to fourteen completed the activities. The booth is open every year next to the museum. Thank you to Fr. John Perich for providing "goodies" to the participants.

Educational Materials/ Speakers

If the members of the clergy or parish members have any questions regarding educational materials available, or would like to host an Educational Conference, please contact me at 570-587-3097 or smile9561@juno.com.