

**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

**Nativity Message of
His Beatitude,
Metropolitan Herman**

...the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:24-27)



NATIVITY 2002

**TO THE REVEREND
CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF
THE DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND**

Dearly beloved:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

These simple, yet joyous, words ring through our churches as we gather to celebrate the birth in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. But they also make present the reality spoken about by the Apostle Paul: there has never been a time when the world was abandoned by God; never a time when the world did not have a relationship with Him.

The Law was given to Israel as "custodian" until the coming of Christ. But it was not enough – God wanted to have a personal relationship with His creation, so He sent His Son. The Son of God took on human flesh not to be our custodian, but our Savior. And through the Son of God, through His saving work, we are reunited with God. The incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ reaffirms one simple fact: we are God's children.

Our society today takes every single step to

MESSAGE TO 12



**39th Assembly
convenes in Kingston**

The little parish of St. Mark of Ephesus in Kingston, Massachusetts was the site of the 39th Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England on October 25-26, 2002. Clergy and lay delegates from throughout the diocese gathered despite cold and inclement weather.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, presided over the Assembly. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, Auxiliary to the Primate, was also present. Most delegates arrived at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth on Thursday evening to allow for a restful night before hard work began on Friday.

On Friday morning, the delegates gathered in Kingston at a hall near the church, which had no facilities large enough to hold the plenaries. Host pastor Fr. Antony Gori and the faithful of the parish provided wonderful hospitality throughout the whole time of the Assembly.

Following the Prayer Service for the Beginning of a Council, His Beatitude opened the plenary with election of the presidium. Archpriest John Dresko (New Britain, CT) and Gregory Shesko (Chelsea, MA) were elected clergy and lay vice-chairmen respectively. His Beatitude then gave his first Address of the Primate to the delegates. He reflected on his election, his previous service in the diocese, and the work of the Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council for the OCA.

The Chancellor of the Diocese, Archpriest Michael Westerberg, reviewed the work of the Church in the past year (*page four*), the Treasurer of the Diocese, Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, gave the financial report (*page ten*), and the deaneries and departments of the diocese gave reports.

Following lunch, Joseph Kormos, a member of the Preconciliar Commission, led a workshop on the *Characteristics of Growing Parishes*, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, made himself available for questions in a *Chat with the Bishop*. Vespers were held in the church and we retired to the hotel for the banquet.

Saturday morning, following liturgy at the church, brunch and the final plenary session was held at the hotel. The budget was reviewed and passed, and elections held.

The 40th Diocesan Assembly will be held at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Terryville, Connecticut on October 24-25, 2003.

O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

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ON THE DOCKET

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

December 10, 2002

*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Waterbury, CT*

December 11, 2002

*Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

A thank you

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful
of the Diocese of New England

I have begun to settle into retirement in Pennsylvania and wanted to take the opportunity to send a very public "thank you" to the diocesan faithful for the many kind wishes and prayers that have been expressed to me.

I also want to thank everyone for the wonderful gift that was presented to me by the Diocesan Council on behalf of all the diocesan faithful. After some careful and crafty interrogation, the Chancellor of the Diocese, Fr. Michael Westerberg, suggested that a computer system would be a perfect gift. And indeed, it is.

The system presented to me was a new, state of the art Apple iMac 800 G4, 512 mb RAM, 80 gb HD, with a Harmon Kardon speaker system, CD-RW, and DVD-RW. All the software I can possibly use was also included. I am in the process of learning how to use this wonderful gift. I am now using e-mail and have learned fundamental internet surfing! As time goes on, I hope to master all the software and it's possibilities.

Although now retired, I consider myself a 22nd century bishop! Thank you again.

Should anyone wish to contact me, feel free to write me at:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius
P.O. Box 70
Hamlin, PA 18427

My prayers will always be with you.

With love in Christ,

† METROPOLITAN THEODOSIUS

O.N.E. Press Fund

YES, I enjoy the articles, correspondence and editorials of *O.N.E. (Orthodox New England)* and would like to contribute towards the expenses of publishing this periodical. Find enclosed my check made out to "Diocese of New England."

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Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko,
95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.

Around the Parishes

Hartford, Connecticut

Our All Saints Church parish is organizing a gift and toy drive, which donations going to families in the regional Employment Success Program. Gifts for those 2 to 17 are welcome. Items may be sent to All Saints Church, 205 Scarborough Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

A new collection program has been instituted at the parish. Each Sunday, the collection has been designated for different needs: Helping Hands which provides charitable assistance; Foodshare, a regional foodbank for which our Altar Sisterhood also coordinates weekly food collections; and Sunshine Fund, to send flowers to those hospitalized.

Our FOCA-R Club recently hosted the Atlantic District Conference. The activities were held at the University of Connecticut's Alumni Hall.

Special thanks to Fr. Joseph Irvin and Fr. John Pawelchak for their assistance during Fr. William's recent hospitalization and recuperation.

A funeral was recently held for long-time member of

OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS

the parish, Sonia Kotrady. Memory Eternal!

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

New Haven, Connecticut

Twenty four of our members attended the ninth annual FORCC benefit dinner at Holy Trinity Greek Church in Bridgeport. Sincere thanks to Anastasia Avgerinos and Penny Mitchell for coordinating the reservations for our parish.

We extend our appreciation to our guest lecturers: Prof. Peter Bouteneff, Prof. John Erickson, Father Paul Lazor, Dr. Albert Rossi and Ms. Eleana Silk, faculty members of St. Vladimir's Seminary who traveled to New Haven for the annual SVS Lecture Series.

Thanks also to the Orthodox Christian Library Outreach (OCLO) members and Miheala Aslan for coordinating these events and the great "munchies" on the hospitality table. Many thanks also to the members of Holy Ghost in Bridgeport and St. Alexis in Clinton and the many guests who attended the lectures for bringing goodies. May God grant all of you Many Years! We hope you will return next year and bring a friend.



(L-R) Natalie Kruchok, Elizabeth Schaffeld, Fr. Michael Westerberg, Lydia Bolash and Anna Radin. The ladies were honored for their life-long commitment as choir members of Holy Transfiguration Church in New Haven. These four honorees represent 275 years of choir service. (Photo: Kathy Vargas)

Sunday, October 6, we honored Lydia Bolash, Natalie Kruchok, Anna Radin and Elizabeth Schaffeld, for their long, tireless enthusiasm and dedication to singing in the choir. They learned to sing when they were six years old, under the loving guidance of Mary Melnikoff, mother of Natalie Kruchok. Father Michael presented each one with a red vase of flowers. Coffee and cake were served at the coffee hour, preceded by the singing of Many Years.

Congratulations to the Mosher family, Joshua, Jenny and toddler Elias, celebrating the October 12th arrival of newborn son and brother, Ephraim. May God grant you many years!

Once again, Alexis Swan is coordinating the OCA Christmas Stocking Project. Each and every year, Alexis beats her precious record with the donations. Thank you, Alexis.

Father Michael and Luba Dowling represented our parish at the New England Diocesan Assembly held in Kingston, Mass.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Woodbury, Connecticut

With the promise of snow in the air, the children of Christ the Savior turned their attention to those less fortunate than themselves. Through the organizational graces of Ellen Latanzi, they hosted a coffee hour and raised an impressive \$565 for Project Christmas Stocking, which provides poor and unfortunate children around the world with perhaps the only gifts they will receive this year.

Our parish was given an early Christmas gift. An

Report of the Chancellor

*Report to the
39th Diocesan Assembly of the
Diocese of New England
October 25-26, 2002
Saint Mark of Ephesus Orthodox
Church, Kingston, MA*

Your Beatitude, Your Grace,
Reverend Fathers,
Brothers and Sisters:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is our privilege to gather today for this diocesan assembly under the omophorion of our new primate, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and in the presence of His Grace, Bishop Nikon, auxiliary to the Metropolitan. Though His Beatitude presided over our assembly in the late 70s and early 80s, it is his first time with us as primate of the church. It is awkward to speak of *welcoming* the hierarchs to a diocesan assembly since we gather at their call and instruction. Nevertheless, it is 'welcome' that we feel in our hearts.

We extend a warm welcome, too, to Father Arthur Liolin, chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese and dean of Saint George Cathedral in South Boston, and two priests of the Archdiocese – Father John Scollard of Saint John the Baptist Church in South Boston, and Father Joseph Gallick of the Church of the Annunciation in Natick, MA. Two weeks ago, Father John Dresko and I had the privilege of participating in their diocesan assembly and of enjoying their warm hospitality. By God's grace and with the help and direction of Bishop Nikon, we look forward to closer cooperation between our two dioceses.

Diocesan Life

• Although every year in the life of each parish is important, one diocesan parish marked a special landmark in 2002 – Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, marked its 100th anniversary.

• In March 2002, Father Terrence McGillicuddy was removed as rector of Saint Mark of Ephesus Church, Kingston, MA, and suspended from all priestly functions. He continues to be under suspension.

• In April 2002, Father Paul Burholt, a former Roman Catholic priest and a member of Holy Resurrection Church, Claremont, NH, was vested as an Orthodox priest at Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, CT, by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius. Many Years to Father Paul and Matushka Gabrielle!

• In May 2002, at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, His Grace, Bishop Nikon was consecrated to the Holy Episcopate and appointed as auxiliary to Metropolitan Theodosius. As auxiliary, Bishop Nikon was given responsibility to care for both the Albanian Archdiocese and the Diocese of New England on behalf of the Metropolitan. Metropolitan Herman has continued that assignment. May God grant Bishop Nikon *Many Years!*

• In preparation for his episcopal consecration, the diocesan council approved the gift of a panagia for His Grace Bishop Nikon. On behalf of our diocese it was presented to His Grace on the day of his consecration.

• In May 2002, at his consecration, His Grace ordained Father Deacon Antony Gori to the Holy Priesthood.

• In May 2002, Father John Hopko, who had been acting rector of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT, was appointed rector.

• In July 2002, Father Matthew Searfoorce, who had been acting rector of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Waterbury, CT, was appointed rector.

• In July 2002, Father Joseph Petranin, of Saint Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA, was granted retirement.

• In August 2002, Father Gary Breton, at his own request, was released as

rector of Holy Annunciation Church, Maynard, MA, and released from his responsibilities as Dean of the Boston Deanery, and transferred from our diocese to the Diocese of New York/New Jersey.

• In August 2002, Father Timothy Blumentritt, who had been on an academic leave of absence and attached to Holy Annunciation Church, Maynard, MA, at his own request, was released from our diocese to the omophorion of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman in order to accept a faculty position at Saint Vladimir's Seminary.

• In August 2002, Father Antony Gori, who was attached to Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, was appointed acting rector of Saint Mark of Ephesus Church, Kingston, MA.

• In August 2002, Metropolitan Herman reappointed me as chancellor of our diocese for a three-year period. (This assignment is from All-American Council to All-American Council.)

• In August 2002, Metropolitan Herman re-appointed Father John Kreta as dean of missions for our diocese for a three-year period. (This assignment is from All-American Council to All-American Council.)

• In September 2002, Father Jude Lepine, at his own request, was released as rector of Holy Resurrection Church, Berlin, NH, and granted a leave of absence.

• In September 2002, Father Robert Dick, who was attached to Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, MA, was appointed acting rector of Holy Annunciation Church, Maynard, MA.

• In September 2002, Father Vladimir Eremine, who is attached to Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, was granted a leave of absence.

• Effective December 2002, Father Eugene Pianovich, of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, is granted retirement. At this point in

my report I usually just mention 'the facts,' however, in this case a few additional words are a must. Father Eugene is the senior priest of our diocese. He has served the Springfield Church for more than forty-six years. For sixteen years he served as chancellor of our diocese. He has been an example, a teacher, a guide and inspiration, a friend and a father to many of our diocesan clergy. Both Father Eugene and Matushka Joanna have served Saints Peter and Paul Parish, our diocese and the entire Church faithfully and well. Upon retirement they will be moving to Pennsylvania. Their parish, our diocese, and I, personally, will miss them. We wish them the richest of God's blessings, all that is good for their salvation, and "Many Years"!

Mention and acknowledgment must be made of the recent service of Father Robert Dick. This year, with the suspension of its rector, in mid-lent, it was necessary to ask Father Robert, on a temporary basis, to assume the reigns of leadership for Saint Mark Church, our host parish for this assembly. Without a moment's hesitation Father Robert just asked, "When do I begin? Where do I have to be?"

And he brought the parish faithful through the remainder of the lenten season and into the Pascha with dignity and grace. He served the parish until the assignment of Father Antony Gori in mid-August. Some might ask, "Isn't this what a priest is supposed to do?" Well, indeed it should be and is, however, this willingness to be of service, both when convenient and when not, is more and more often the exception and rare example than the rule. If Father Robert had made excuses and 'begged off' the responsibility it would have been very difficult properly to serve the parish through Great Lent and Pascha. Yes, he was just doing the right thing, but I wish personally and publicly to thank Father Robert on behalf of the parish and our diocese.

Anticipating the appointment of His Grace Bishop Nikon as auxiliary to the Metropolitan and assignment

of responsibilities for the care of both our and the Albanian Archdiocese, after Pascha, a finance committee from our diocese met with the finance committee of the Albanian Archdiocese. His Grace is caring for both dioceses and our two dioceses are sharing in financial responsibilities for his support and care.

With the retirement of Father Petranin and the leave of absence of Father Lepine, two diocesan parishes are vacant: Saint Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA, and Holy Resurrection Church, Berlin, New Hampshire. The approaching retirement of Father Pianovich will mean a third parish vacancy. With the blessing of His Beatitude, we are working with our national chancellor, Protopresbyter Robert Kondratich, not just to find priests to fill the slots, but to identify suitable appointments for these parishes.

With the transfer from our diocese of Father Gary Breton, the office of dean of the Boston Deanery is vacant. We anticipate meeting with the Boston Deanery clergy during this assembly for the purpose of selecting a candidate to present to His Beatitude for his blessing and approval.

Father Gary's transfer also creates a vacancy in our diocesan department of youth. Father had led the department for the past three years; and we extend to him the thanks of our diocesan family. Department responsibilities include youth programming in general and the annual *Youth Rally* in particular. The youth director is a member of the diocesan council. We seek and invite the input of clergy and laity in order to identify diocesan faithful having the maturity, talent and willingness to organize and work with diocesan young people. This is not something a person must do alone, but with a committee/staff. Please do not mention names to me in passing conversation. I won't remember. Jot down names, e-dresses, phone numbers and parish membership, and give or send it to me. The next diocesan council meeting is sched-

uled for early December. We hope to make an appointment at that time.

A new diocesan web site is now 'under construction' at the able hands of Father John Dresko and Father Matthew Searfoorce. Once the site is up you will be notified through our diocesan newspaper.

For three years we reported the bequest of the late Vera Garin, of Saint Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA. Early this year the complicated estate was settled. A fifty percent share of her home was willed to our diocese for use by Saint Nicholas Parish. By diocesan council decision, ownership of the house was signed over to the parish with two restrictions recorded with the deed. If, at any time, the parish wishes to dispose of the property, diocesan council approval is required; and if the parish dissolves or seeks to remove itself from the Orthodox Church in America, fifty percent of the value of the property reverts to the diocese. Thank you to Nicholas Bobrovsky, of Saint Nicholas Church, for seeing this matter through to this positive conclusion.

In recent years I have used this forum to ask diocesan faithful: "Is your estate in order? Do you have a will? Have you remembered the Church – your parish, the diocese, the National Church, our seminaries and/or monasteries, Orthodox scholarship programs or charities in your will?" In this spirit, we acknowledge and give thanks for a bequest of \$1,000 to our diocese from the estate of a parishioner of Three Saints Church in Ansonia. This bequest has been received and the estate closed.

Iwould like to call your attention to one matter of parish and diocesan life that occasionally surfaces and which seems to fall into a category all by itself. From time to time anonymous communications surface in parishes and in our diocese. Anonymous communications are sometimes signed 'concerned parishioner' or 'a concerned Orthodox...', etc. However, anonymous

CHANCELLOR FROM 5

communications are always from someone lacking the courage of his convictions. Anonymously, by intention or unintentionally, a person may spread half-truths, misinformation, lies, slander and/or irresponsible charges and claims. These communications often spread poison and can become a cancer if anyone pays attention. This year I received my first anonymous e-mail message. As a diocesan administrator I follow an absolutely rigid policy with anonymous communications. Any person not willing to sign his name to any matter of concern does not think his opinion or concern is valid or important enough to stand by it.

If it is not important enough for him, it is not important enough to receive my time and attention. Anonymous communications are automatically discarded. I urge parishioners, clergy and parish councils to follow this same policy. Well-meaning concerned faithful can give a name and face to their opinions. Then they can receive our full attention.

Recognitions

As we well know, this July, at the All-American Council, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, entered retirement after many years of service to Christ and His holy Church. Servant of the Church – priest and bishop for more than forty years, Metropolitan Theodosius served for twenty-five years as primate of the Orthodox Church in America, the last (nearly) ten years of which he also served as our diocesan hierarch. (I pray we weren't the 'straw that broke the camel's back.')

In appreciation for his humble and loving service to our diocese, the diocesan council approved a retirement gift that stealthy investigation revealed His Beatitude would appreciate. On behalf of our diocese we purchased and presented a computer system to Metropolitan Theodosius. We understand that he is in the process of getting 'up and running.'

We pray that he use it in good health and remembering our diocesan faithful who hold him in affection and high regard. May God grant him many blessed years!

- On September 29th, Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, was awarded a Synodal Gramota at the celebration of the parish's 100th anniversary.

- In 2002, several awards were approved by Metropolitan Theodosius and the Holy Synod. Most of the awards were presented by His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius before his retirement; and others either have been or will be presented by either His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, or His Grace, Bishop Nikon.

- Father Robert Dick and Father Vadim Pismenny were each awarded the *nabedrenik*; Father Jude Lepine was awarded the *skufia*; Father Vladimir Aleandro, Father John Kreta, Father Vladimir Horoszczak and Father Marc Vranes were each awarded the *kamilavka*; Father John Hopko and Father Stephen Voytovich were each awarded the *gold cross*; Father David Koles and Father John Pawelchak were awarded the office of *Archpriest*; Father Dennis Rhodes was awarded the *palitza*; and Father John Dresko was awarded the *jeweled cross*.

- And for their long-term, faithful, dedicated and sacrificial service to the Diocese of New England and to the Orthodox Church in America, the high honor of the Order of Saint Innocent (Bronze Cross) was presented to: Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Matushka Ann Sovyrda and Gregory Shesko.

National Church Life

In July our Church gathered in Orlando, Florida, for the 13th All-American Council. Nearly every parish of our diocese was represented. This is as it should be. In your parish budget, for this and every year, establish a line item for the All-American Council. For all but the smallest of our parishes it is not financially prohibitive to set aside

\$75 to \$100 monthly, but even for a larger parish it may be difficult to allocate a lump sum of \$2,500 to \$3,000 every third year. Again, except for our smallest parishes, more than anything, it is a failure of the parish clergy and the lay leadership to lead, and it is an irresponsibility of the general stewardship of the parish faithful, that when the Holy Synod of our Church calls us to assemble – with a three-year advance notice – parishes bemoan their poverty and turn a deaf ear. I remind all of our parishes and their representatives. Begin to prepare. There will be another All-American Council in three years.

From the work of the 13th All-American Council we know of the retirement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, and the election and enthronement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, as his successor. May God grant our new primate wisdom, courage and strength, and may He grant him many years!

In keynote presentations and numerous workshops the Council addressed the theme: *The Parish Community – Our Life In Christ*. Later today we will participate in one workshop from the Council – 'Signs of a Healthy Parish,' led by Mr. Joseph Kormos of Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a member of the Preconciliar Commission.

The Council called attention to the absolute centrality for Orthodox faithful of the liturgical and sacramental life. Our attention was also focused on the essential nature of parish education, both for parish youth and adults. Bible studies, inquirer's classes, instruction in the faith, child and adult education – all these must be a regular part of parish life. Stewardship education must also be regularly addressed, not in order to 'pay the bills', but because the word of God calls us to do so. Wise and good stewardship concerns far more than money, and to not speak about stewardship is to neglect a subject our Lord spoke about more than love, or sin, or salvation. At the same time, community outreach and com-

munity service also need to be incorporated into parish planning and activities. The least healthy situation is when these activities are not taking place. The 'next least healthy' situation is when responsibility for these activities falls exclusively on the shoulders of the parish priest. Parish life, as much as humanly possible, is a whole parish responsibility that requires priority attention of parish clergy and lay initiative and leadership.

Always a concern on every level of church life, the Council addressed issues of adequate and responsible financial support. Many years ago our diocese adopted a 'fair share' system for meeting diocesan needs. At our assembly last October we decided to apply that same fair share approach for meeting our parish and diocesan responsibility to our National Church. In July, after much discussion, the Council voted to apply the same fair share system (that we had already adopted) to the territorial dioceses of our Church. The decision was made, but not without a certain measure of fear and doubt – either that the system would not be workable or that dioceses and parishes would not comply. We know, from our diocesan experience, that the system is workable. The responsibility for assuring compliance rests with diocesan hierarchs, chancellors and deans.

Also under the umbrella of 'financial matters' an increase in funding for the central church was approved and capped at \$85.00 per person. Here we must point out that *this increase is not the result of a change to the fair share system.* For years we have asked our Church to limp along on a no growth, survival budget. We have ever increasing expectations. "Why isn't our Church doing this? Why isn't Syosset doing that?" All the while we have begrudgingly accepted only 'cost-of-living' adjustments to church-wide assessments. This short-sighted approach of 'church-on-the-cheap' and 'what's the least I can get away with' has severely limited our

Central Church and its ability to function, let alone meet increasing expectations. We need to acknowledge the work of our chancellor, Father Robert Kondratick, and the national staff, in doing remarkably well with the little with which we have given them to work. So much of their time is spent 'trying to make bricks without straw.' (If you are not sure what that means, ask your Bible study class to peruse Exodus.)

In our consideration of the proposed budget we will again be turning our attention to financial matters and can discuss this issue in greater detail.

Given the media attention and the current national controversy and completely appropriate concern regarding pedophilia and sexual misconduct, I would be remiss if I failed to call your attention to the long-standing guidelines approved by our Holy Synod. These guidelines are our first reference in any instance of allegations of sexual misconduct. I also hasten to add that sexual misconduct is not an exclusively clergy domain. Parish councils should be attuned to all safety concerns in the parish – those related to keeping property hazard free and in good repair, and those related to personal integrity and respect for all. It must be a priority that diocesan activities, each parish and every parish sponsored activity be a safe place for our children. The Holy Synod Guidelines accompany this report.

We want to acknowledge and give thanks for a \$2,000.00 donation from the estate of a New Britain parishioner for the support of the Youth Ministries Program at the All-American Council.

ONE Stewards and Stewardship

The goal of our diocesan stewardship program, *ONE Stewards*, is to provide full funding and support for youth work, for scholarships, for diocesan support of the national Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards [*FOS*], and for the educational, charitable and

missionary work of our diocese. Fair share assessments pay diocesan bills; but voluntary giving through *ONE Stewards* provides for the Christian life of our diocese. Through the *ONE Stewards* program we foster and support Christian conduct on a diocesan level.

I call on every delegate and observer to this assembly, clergy and lay, to be a member of *ONE Stewards* and to make a commitment of support. And I call on each of you as representatives to this assembly and as parish leaders, to work within your parish to meet or exceed the minimal goal of 25% membership in *ONE Stewards* from every diocesan parish and mission. We are doing well but there is more work that can and must be done.

Thanks to Matushka Ann Sovyrda for her years of service as *ONE Stewards* treasurer and record keeper. Matushka Ann asked to be relieved of that responsibility. Joshua Mosher, of Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT, was appointed to succeed her. Joshua is absent from this assembly due to the birth, a few days ago, of his second son, Ephraim – a valid absence.

Diocesan Council and Officers

The Diocesan Council met four times since our last assembly to conduct regular diocesan affairs, to insure the continuing effective operation of the various diocesan departments and committees, and for the fulfillment of its many responsibilities for the life of our diocese.

"Thank you!" to the members of the diocesan council and especially: to diocesan treasurer, Protodeacon Paul Nimchek; to diocesan secretary, Lydia Dorsey; to Greg Shesko and Joshua Mosher, who administer *ONE Stewards*, our diocesan stewardship program; to Father John Dresko - reporter, editor and circulation director of *Orthodox New England*, our diocesan newspaper. and "Thank you!" to all the members of the diocesan council, diocesan committees and departments.

CHANCELLOR TO 8

CHANCELLOR FROM 7

"Thank you!" to the deans of our three deaneries: Father Gary Breton, now released from our diocese, Father Peter Carmichael, and Father John Dresko, and to the dean of our diocesan missions, Father John Kreta.

"Thank You!" to Father Gary Breton and his support staff for their excellent work with the department of youth, youth rally and diocesan youth programming.

"Thank You!" to Father Steven and Matushka Cindy Voytovich for their work in establishing and running a diocesan training program for choir directors. The first certificates of completion will be presented at this assembly.

"Thank You!" to Gregory Shesko, who accepted appointment as property manager of the diocesan residence, and who served for many years on the national pension board – that term having come to a close with the All-American Council in July. And "Thank You!" to Father John Dresko for his service on the Metropolitan Council, that term having come to a close in July, and for his work on the fair share program which was blessed by the Holy Synod and adopted by the Council.

May our diocesan family grow in faith, in love and in spiritual understanding. And may the life-giving Holy Trinity continue to bless and guide the life of the Diocese of New England, her parishes and missions, and all her faithful.

Respectfully submitted,

ARCHPRIEST MICHAEL WESTERBERG,
Chancellor, Diocese of New England

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

February Issue

January 1st

March Issue

February 1st

Community Outreach in Chelsea



On Saturday, September 28th, just prior to Great Vespers, Father John T. Bacon and members of the choir of Nativity of the Virgin Mary parish in Chelsea, Massachusetts were asked to contribute to the dedication of a new park in the parish's vicinity.

City officials and members of "Neighborhood Again Blight - Crime Watch" (NAB) along with area residents joined together for the completion of the Eden Street Park reconstruction and to honor three popular residents.

Park benches were dedicated in memory of longtime NAB leader John Brown, as well as Josephine Jutkiewicz and Rose McIntyre. Guests marked the grand opening of the Market del Sol, and the renovation of Eden Street

with ribbon cuttings.

Mike McKonnen Tsegaye, Councillor of District Four, Chelsea, and Master of Ceremonies, invited Father John and the choir to assist with the blessing of the benches and the new market.

This event marks not only the economic revitalization of the district but also the efforts of neighbors to stem blight and crime.

Accompanying Father John that day were Marilyn M. Shesko, choir director, Tom Durham, Theodore Dwight Edwards, Mary Gotowala, Lydia Walata (representing the Chelsea School Committee, Gregory J. Shesko (photographer), Mary Ruzila, Vasily Domoretsky, Joe Page and Jerry Ryan, who had arranged the involvement of the parish.

PARISHES FROM 3

anonymous offer was made to MATCH ANY DONATION toward the Building Fund for at least the next three months. This means that anything offered toward our cause for a more permanent home will be doubled. We wholeheartedly give thanks for this *very* generous gesture.

Yet another valuable gift was made, that of a priest's phelonian and several antique cloths, all from Russia and possibly more than a hundred years old. Those interested in learning more about these antique textiles are invited to contact us.

The mission's Annual Assembly

was held on Sunday, October 20th. With the invocation of the Holy Spirit, we once again came together to encapsulate and celebrate another year in His service.

We are thankful for another semester of St. Vladimir's in New Haven. Many from the mission traveled every week to listen, learn, discuss and take part in exquisite desert-eating.

As we continue Winter Lent, we pray for the catechumens of our community who, through God's Grace, will become a part of His Body this great season.

– submitted by Burgess Speed

Policies regarding clergy care

As revised 10/26/02
39th Diocesan Assembly
Kingston, MA

The following standing policies deal with clergy care. Some are policies of the Orthodox Church in America established by one or more All-American Councils. [National policies are indicated as such.] Others are diocesan policies. These clergy care policies are neither goals nor upper-limit targets but are intended to provide a 'safety net' for clergy compensation. For cash salary the booklet prepared and distributed by the national office of the Orthodox Church in America, and basing salary on community median income, is the guide.

The diocesan minimum base salary is not a 'living wage' and can in no way be considered even an adequate entry-level compensation. It is intended only to spare clergy who might be so poorly compensated the further humiliation of having to approach his parish council, hat-in-hand, asking for permission to accept secular employment so that he can provide for his family's basic care and perhaps survival.

Minimum full-time salary:

The required diocesan minimum full-time base cash salary compensation is \$22,500.00, as of January 1, 2003. This base figure shall be adjusted upward annually according to the cost-of-living-adjustment, [COLA] announced at the regular diocesan assembly and effective January 1 following the assembly.

This shall be understood to mean:

- In every case a priest needing and/or desiring to accept secular employment must ask and receive the blessing of the diocesan bishop.
- In parishes paying less than the minimum salary no parish or parish council approval is necessary for the

priest to accept full or part-time secular employment.

- In parishes paying at or above the minimum salary level, in addition to the bishop's blessing, parish council approval is required for the priest to accept full or part-time secular employment.

Annual cost-of-living adjustments in clergy compensation are required of all parishes. The amount of the cost-of-living adjustment shall be announced at the annual diocesan assembly and shall be based on the most recent CPI regionally adjusted for the New England region. Merit increases are at the discretion of each parish.

Since within our diocese, few or none of the clergy salaries are at a professional level, at the time of clergy transfers, the salary for the incoming clergy is not based on length of service but shall be not less than that of the former pastor.

Required benefits:

- The parish shall provide either parish housing, including all utilities except telephone, or a housing allowance adequate to the parish community and adequate to provide housing at least comparable to the average living conditions of parish members.
- Social security as required by law— Federal law requires 7.65% of the base salary combined with the value of the provided housing or housing allowance. Parishes are not required but are encouraged to pay the entire 15.3%.
- Parishes are required to make provision for health care coverage.
- Participation in the OCA pension plan is required of all OCA clergy residing in the U.S. [Canadian law makes other provisions for clergy serving in Canada.] Parishes are required to pay 6% of the base salary

to the pension plan. [This is a national requirement.] Parishes are not required but are encouraged to pay the entire 12% amount.

- Participation in the OCA life insurance plan is required for all clergy. [This is a national requirement.]
- Parish priests are to receive an auto allowance of not less than \$50.00 monthly.
- Though not required, parishes are encouraged to provide a continuing education allowance which may be used for books, classes and/or conferences.

Vacation guidelines:

Vacation time is determined from date of ordination, not by length of service in a particular parish.

One to seven years from ordination:
not less than two weeks paid vacation

Seven to twelve years from ordination:
not less than three weeks paid vacation

Above twelve years from ordination:
not less than four weeks paid vacation

In recognition of long and/or outstanding service, parishes may choose to increase vacation allowances.

Report of the Treasurer

INCOME	'01-'02 Budget	'01-'02 Actual	'02-'03 Budget
OCA Fair Share	\$ 178,560.00	\$ 176,733.15	\$ 202,905.00*
Diocesan Fair Share	73,000.00	73,670.01	77,100.00
ROLL Radio/TV	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
OCA Mission	4,000.00	2,098.92	2,000.00
Assembly Income	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
ONE Stewards	21,000.00	19,500.00	21,000.00
Rental Income	8,600.00	10,725.00	8,700.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	315.00	500.00
Interest/Dividends	3,800.00	1,854.00	3,000.00
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 293,560.00	\$ 287,496.10	\$ 317,805.00
EXPENSES	'01-'02 Budget	'01-'02 Actual	'02-'03 Budget
Bishop			
Metropolitan	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 11,940.00	\$ 13,000.00
Chancellor	8,300.00	8,300.00	0.00
Social Security	3,065.00	2,416.92	994.50
Health Insurance	630.00	750.00	3,000.00
Housing	0.00	1,950.00	7,800.00
Pension	630.00	390.00	1,560.00
Life Insurance	0.00	237.50	950.00
Disability Insurance	0.00	15.40	61.50
Travel Expenses	2,500.00	450.00	1,800.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	334.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 26,725.00	\$ 26,449.82	\$ 29,500.00
Diocesan Administration			
Chancellor	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	6,000.00
Secretary	500.00	500.00	500.00
Treasurer	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Metropolitan Council	500.00	500.00	500.00
Deans	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Personal Assistance Program	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00
Diocesan Travel	2,500.00	1,426.08	1,000.00
Computer Expenses	1,000.00	806.94	1,200.00
Diocesan Insurance	2,300.00	2,369.50	2,500.00
Office Expenses/Misc.	1,300.00	1,124.40	1,300.00
AAC	1,500.00	1,275.00	0.00
OCA Fair Share	178,560.00	176,686.06	202,905.00*
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 193,310.00	\$ 189,838.00	\$ 220,055.00
Diocesan Activities			
ONE Newspaper	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,183.47	\$ 21,000.00
ROLL Radio/TV	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
Assembly Expenses	1,750.00	1,766.97	1,750.00
ONE Stewards	2,000.00	2,615.39	2,500.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 27,350.00	\$ 28,165.83	\$ 27,850.00

* Estimates of the 2003 OCA Fair Share

EXPENSES	'01-'02 Budget	'01-'02 Actual	'02-'03 Budget
ONE Stewards			
Youth	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Youth Director(s)	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,600.00
Charity & Discretionary	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Scholarships	5,500.00	4,490.00	5,500.00
FOS	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Mission Support	16,500.00	14,100.00	14,400.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 33,090.00	\$ 36,000.00
Maintenance			
Maintenance Projects	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,218.08	\$ 1,500.00
Furnace Maintenance Contract	150.00	0.00	150.00
Property Manager	2,625.00	1,800.00	2,400.00
Miscellaneous	300.00	97.77	250.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 5,575.00	\$ 3,115.85	\$ 4,300.00
Bonds			
Interest	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$ 100.00
Surrender	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$ 293,560.00	\$ 280,759.50	\$ 317,805.00

2003 Diocesan Council

HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN HERMAN
HIS GRACE, BISHOP NIKON

Archpriest Michael Westerberg, *Chancellor*
Lydia Dorsey, *Secretary*
Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, *Treasurer*

Deans

Archpriest Robert Arida, Boston Deanery
Archpriest John Dresko, Connecticut Deanery
Priest Peter Carmichael, Northern Deanery
Priest John Kreta, Dean of Missions

Clergy Members

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes
Priest Steven Voytovich
Priest John Hopko

Lay Members

Paul Culton
Cindy Voytovich
Peter Kopcha
Ann Sovyrda
Joan Skrobat
David Rogers

Metropolitan Council

Archpriest Michael Westerberg
George Ludko

ONE Stewards

Gregory Shesko
Joshua Mosher

Auditors

Nicholas Bobrovsky (voting)
John Winkleman (non-voting)
Lawrence Johnson (non-voting)

Cost of Living Adjustment

The Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region rose **1.9%** during the period July 2001 to June 2002. Therefore, clergy salaries, beginning in January 2003, shall be increased by at least 1.9%.

This "cost-of-living adjustment" is in addition to any merit increase awarded by individual parishes. The cost-of-living adjustment is for all full and part-time clergy and applies to all parish communities including Missions.

ONE Stewards Report

Three Saints Church, <i>Ansonia, CT</i>	\$ 1,235.00
Holy Resurrection Church, <i>Berlin, NH</i>	85.00
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, <i>Bethel, CT</i>	265.00
Holy Trinity Cathedral, <i>Boston, MA</i>	370.00
Holy Ghost Church, <i>Bridgeport, CT</i>	678.00
Nativity of the Virgin Church, <i>Chelsea, MA</i>	2,270.00
Holy Resurrection Church, <i>Claremont, NH</i>	175.00
St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Mission, <i>Clinton, CT</i>	1,150.00
Dormition of the Theotokos Church, <i>Cumberland, RI</i>	80.00
All Saints Church, <i>Hartford, CT</i>	695.00
St. Mark of Ephesus Mission, <i>Kingston, MA</i>	25.00
Holy Annunciation Church, <i>Maynard, MA</i>	295.00
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, <i>Meriden, CT</i>	350.00
St. Jacob of Alaska Mission, <i>Northfield Falls, VT</i>	50.00
Holy Trinity Church, <i>New Britain, CT</i>	1,475.00
Holy Transfiguration Church, <i>New Haven, CT</i>	2,370.00
St. Nicholas Church, <i>Norwich, CT</i>	326.46
St. Nicholas Church, <i>Pittsfield, MA</i>	200.00
St. Nicholas Church, <i>Salem, MA</i>	805.00
All Saints of North America Mission, <i>Salisbury, CT</i>	175.00
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, <i>Springfield, MA</i>	485.00
Holy Trinity Church, <i>Springfield, VT</i>	640.00
Holy Assumption Church, <i>Stamford, CT</i>	660.00
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, <i>Terryville, CT</i>	2,025.00
Nativity of the Virgin Church, <i>Waterbury, CT</i>	280.00
Holy Trinity Church, <i>Willimantic, CT</i>	25.00
Christ the Savior Mission, <i>Woodbury, CT</i>	850.00
Other	1,055.00
Interest	39.90
Total Income	\$ 19,134.36

MESSAGE FROM 1

eliminate the Lord Jesus Christ from our celebration of the Nativity. We are tempted by abundant material acquisition, by schedules full of everything but prayer and liturgical celebration, and by an explosion of "Christmas" that fades away on December 25th, leaving us curiously unsatisfied on December 26th.

The Church fasts and prepares for forty days and the fulfillment and celebration starts on December 25th. The fast-free period after the Nativity is longer than the one after Pascha. All this points to the fundamental change in the world that occurs with the coming of Christ.

I invite each and every one of you to join me in this celebration. The Son of God has taken on human flesh, so that we humans might become once again children of God.

I extend to all the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of New England my blessing and prayers for a joyful celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

With love in Christ,



†HERMAN
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America
and Canada
Administrator of the
Diocese of New England

ONE-Orthodox New England
P.O. Box 2876
New Britain, CT 06050-2876
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