

Lenten Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

The darkness of our daily lives is cast off through our fasting, prayer and repentance and the Light of the Resurrection becomes our armor.

...you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day... (Romans 13:11-13 RSV)

GREAT LENT 2003

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

Dearly beloved,

The Church proclaims these words of Saint Paul to the Romans on Forgiveness Sunday, just as we are preparing for the Rite of Forgiveness and, through that rite, the entrance into the Great Fast itself. Great Lent is the time for each of us to wake from sleep – the sleep of spiritual indifference, the sleep of prayer indifference, the sleep of liturgical and sacramental indifference, and the sleep of personal indifference. We begin the Lenten effort with mutual forgiveness precisely because we live our lives in complete and total indifference to virtually anyone but ourselves. To fall down before each other and beg forgiveness for that indifference is the beginning of repentance.

Great Lent is the short time each year when we strive to live our lives being aware moment by moment that indeed, “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” The immediacy of our relationship with God is also something to which we are often indifferent. There always seems to be time “later” for doing

what needs to be done in working out our salvation. But Lent is the reminder that there is no “later.” The somber night of Great Lent bursts forth into the glorious Day of Pascha. The darkness of our daily lives is cast off through our fasting, prayer and repentance and the Light of the Resurrection becomes our armor.

We are so busy during Great Lent. Everyone should make an effort at increasing daily prayer, attending the beautiful penitential services, confessing our sins, fasting from everything that feeds us to the point of gluttony, and giving alms to those who cannot begin to imagine what we each enjoy in our day to day lives. Yes, it is busy. But being busy in the pursuit of salvation and being busy in doing the works of the Lord is so much more productive than the vain busyness that usually enslaves us. If are to be slaves, let us each be a slave of Christ.

Beloved sisters and brothers, as we enter into the Great Fast, I ask your forgiveness. I also invite each of you to join me in this wondrous journey away from this world and its enticements and to the destination of the Kingdom of God. May this fast truly prepare us for the Light of the Resurrection, and may that

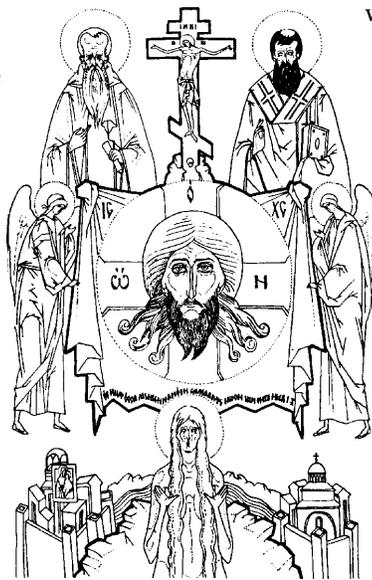
Light be an impenetrable armor protecting each of us from the slings and arrows of the Evil One.

With love in Christ,



†HERMAN

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



O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

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Editorial Office: V. REV. JOHN DRESKO, Editor
E-MAIL: jdresko@cox.net

FAX: (860) 620-0739
US MAIL: 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489

ONE Online: <http://www.ocadne.org>

ONE STEWARDS: PO Box 2995, New Haven, CT 06515-2995

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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.

- March 6, 2003
Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT
- March 10, 2003
GREAT LENT BEGINS
- March 16, 2003
Orthodoxy Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT
- March 20, 2003
FORCC Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT
- March 23, 2003
Connecticut Deanery Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Waterbury, CT
- March 30, 2003
FORCC Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
TBA
- April 6, 2003
Connecticut Deanery Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA
- April 10, 2003
Connecticut Deanery Clergy Retreat, 5:00 P.M.
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts/Dinner/Talk
Archpriest Michael Koblosh, Speaker
Christ the Savior Mission, Woodbury, CT
- April 13, 2003
Holy Unction Service, 4:00 P.M.
Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT
- April 20, 2003
PALM SUNDAY
Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT
- April 27, 2003
THE HOLY PASCHA
- May 15, 2003
FORCC Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT
- May 21, 2003
Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT

Around the Parishes

Hartford, Connecticut

Christian Holobinko, 7, son of John and Joan Holobinko, became the youngest reader at All Saints Church, Hartford, with the excellent reading of prayers at Saturday night Vespers. Christian also serves in the altar. Meanwhile, our Readers Program, supervised by Dr. Chet Andrzejewski has produced three new readers—young teenagers and altar servers, John Medynski, son of Nicholas and Jan Medynski; and Michael Andrezjewski, son of Chet and Kathy Andrzejewski; and a new adult reader, Chris Evans. All three are now reading the Epistle at Liturgies along with Clinton Hibdon and Chet Andrzejewski.

Our annual Vespertal Liturgy celebrating the Circumcision and St. Basil, and Covered Dish Supper on New Year's Eve was held and everyone enjoyed coming together for worship, fellowship and food.

Congratulations are in order for our new FOCA-R Club officers who were installed by Fr. William. They include Val Olesnovich, president; Joan Holobinko, vice

OUR DIOCESE

**PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS**

president; Michael Stenko, treasurer; Olga Malick, recording secretary; Helen Lichatx, correspondence; and Mary Beth Stenko, trustee. Many Years!

Our parish was saddened at the loss of two long-time members—Nadja Mikan and Dora Dworak. Memory Eternal!

— submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

Kingston, Massachusetts

On the weekend of January 18th and 19th, St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Church celebrated its patronal feast day. The wondrous joy of this special occasion was made even greater by the company of His Grace, Bishop Nikon, Bishop of Baltimore. This marked Bishop Nikon's second visit to St. Mark's, where he had previously come to attend the 2002 Diocesan Assembly. The visit also held some personal significance for both His Grace and our pastor, Father Antony Gori, since it was on the day of his consecration that Bishop Nikon himself ordained Father Antony into the priesthood.

During Great Vespers on Saturday evening, St. Mark's was blessed by the presence of Bishop Nikon and Father John Scollard of St. John the Baptist Church, in Boston.

Led by director Lisa Shortes, the choir performed the various hymns of the feast, for which it later received praise from His Grace for a job well done. Following Great Vespers, Bishop Nikon joined over a dozen parishioners for dinner at a local restaurant. In addition to sharing in each other's company, this provided a pleasant and rare opportunity for members of St. Mark's to converse and acquaint themselves with His Grace.

To the delight of parishioners, Bishop Nikon celebrated an Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Archdeacon Roman of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Boston, assisted His Grace in the celebration of the liturgy. The service concluded with Bishop Nikon's blessing of St. Mark's new handicap access ramp. Fortunately, after some last minute design modifications, construction of the ramp was completed earlier that same week. Divine Liturgy was followed by a Pot Luck dinner, during which Bishop Nikon held a 45-minute question and answer period. He entertained numerous questions regarding Orthodoxy, his own background, and the state of the diocese. It was a fitting and memorable end to a weekend full of spiritual growth and reverence.

— submitted by Matthew Rudick

New Britain, Connecticut

Our annual parish meeting was held at the end of January and we revisited a glorious Centennial celebration year. Our new parish council was elected: George Ludko, President; Paul Salina, Vice President; Lydia Dorsey, Secretary; Jennie Everson, Financial Secretary; Nelson Potter, Treasurer; Jeanne McGuire, Assistant Treasurer; Nadine Cabrera and Adam Salina, Auditors; Ellen Santoro, Diane Polzun, Chris Burrill, Chris Dresko, George Matyczuk, Phyllis Bartos, and Amber Fiedler, At-Large. Thanks also to Mike Wanik, Al Hromi, Nancy Martin, George Fedak and Gladys Labas, who served the past four years and are ineligible to serve again until next year. We sincerely appreciate all their efforts and pray that the new council will be blessed with wisdom and courage. Many Years!

On the same Sunday, we participated in the "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection of food for the needy and assistance for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. Lots of food was collected for The Friendship Center in New Britain and a generous donation will be made to OCMC. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

Many Years to the child of God, Nicholas Pulcini, who was baptized on January 25th. Congratulations also to parents, Joe and Alicyn Pulcini, and big brother Andrew!

We rejoice and pray to God for Danielle Salina, wife of our own Adam Salina, who has begun her catechism in preparation for entering the Church. May God bless her

PARISHES TO 7

ONE STEWARDS:

Supporting Orthodox Witness in our Troubled World

Challenges face us from many directions today. The threat of war and terrorist attack is visible at the international level. At home we face concerns about raising and educating our youth, cloning, poverty, violence, and many others. In these times of instability and uncertainty, increasing numbers of people are searching for where to turn for strength and support.

We as Orthodox Christians know the importance of our relationship with Jesus Christ and one another within our parish communities, continuing to draw from the richness of our faith. Now, more than ever, it is important to share our faith with those caught in the winds of uncertainty, inviting others to walk the path our Lord prepares for us. Within our diocese, ONE STEWARDS has been this beacon of outreach. ONE STEWARDS supports youth ministry and religious education, helping to raise and educate our youth. ONE STEWARDS supports seminary scholarships, and mission and clergy support, assisting in training future leaders for our church and supporting the building up of new mission parish communities. ONE STEWARDS also supports charitable giving, resulting in direct aid to those in need.

Given the increasing needs around us, your support is needed not only to continue the outreach supported by ONE STEWARDS, beyond the regular budget items for our diocese, but to strive toward increasing what we are able to offer those in need. Even during the past year's

financial downturn, ONE STEWARDS giving remained at the previous year's level. Those who support ONE STEWARDS do so consistently. We need your commitment to increase the level of outreach this coming year.

We thank all of you who have faithfully supported the work of ONE STEWARDS. Share this vision and missionary zeal, do your part *TODAY* to make total voluntary funding of ONE STEWARDS a reality this year. Consider increasing your own contribution, tell others about the importance of a vision for the future of the Orthodox Church in the Diocese of New England, and encourage others to contribute in order that our young people today will have an active and vibrant Orthodox witness to carry on. Just as it was up to missionaries who brought Orthodoxy to North America, it is up to us today to volunteer and step forward to actively guide the ongoing upbuilding of Orthodoxy in New England and throughout the world!

With love in Christ,



+HERMAN

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

March is ONE STEWARDS Month

Each household of the diocese will be receiving an envelope for the annual ONE STEWARDS appeal in March. Your donation helps fund ministry projects of the diocese: missions, seminary scholarships, youth work, education, charitable outreach, etc.

Please return your envelope as soon as possible and help support the work of the diocese. Not one penny of your donation to ONE STEWARDS goes to administration. In fact, money spent on ministry work in our diocese far surpasses the income taken in for those projects! Your voluntary contribution helps offset some of the cost of the work of the Church.

Great Lent is the perfect time for almsgiving, turning away from those things that preoccupy us and using those resources for purposes more suitable for the propagation of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Please be generous!

FROM THE FATHERS

On Fasting

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye, and the feet, and the hands and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice.

Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.

Let the ears fast by not listening to evil talk and gossip.

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.

For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?

— St. John Chrysostom

A pastor's thoughts on confession and communion

(As we enter into Great Lent and turn our thoughts to repentance, we share these thoughts of a pastor on contemporary practice and spiritual growth. – Ed.)

Every pastor in the Orthodox Church struggles with how often to expect the Sacrament of Confession from those in his parish who regularly approach the chalice. People years ago went to Communion once a year because “that’s what Father taught us to do.” Now, people come to the chalice regularly because “that’s what Father taught us to do.” Baaaaa.....

But I have noticed some things over the years about this issue:

It is a temptation for many of our priests to consider themselves “spiritual elders.” I hear priests speak all the time about how they direct the lives of their penitents, how they expect a certain level of understanding, how they demand confession at certain intervals. Many priests seem to consider themselves “gurus.”

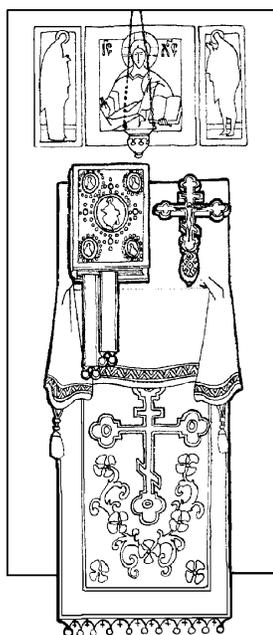
At the same time, I have met maybe three or four priests in my lifetime that I believe have the qualities to actually *be* spiritual elders. I won’t embarrass the living ones, but Fr. Alexander Schmemmann was one.

As pastors, we sometimes forget that we can’t order, demand or nag our faithful into heaven. We must constantly preach the positives of what is expected of them (us!) instead of the negative blasting away at what “they” aren’t doing.

I encourage my parishioners to come to confession as often as possible, but I know that for many of them it boils down to a couple of times a year. That is the best I can expect right now. I certainly don’t preach a sermon about how the congregation is going to suffer the fires of hell because they don’t come to confession enough. I might, however, preach a sermon about the

necessity and value of a good confession. Is a forced confession that begins “because you told me I had to come, Father...” any better than no confession? It is the same for Saturday evening services. Can I “force” someone to come to Vespers/Vigil? Probably – at least I can withhold the sacraments if they don’t come. So then they don’t come to Vespers **and** don’t come to the chalice. Great “victory.”

What is enough? What is a “complete” spiritual life? Do each of us priests have it? I’ve had parishioners that desired confession almost weekly – and it was, spiritually speaking, often a waste



of time – sometimes even a delusion.

Many times people simply use the priest as a therapist and a crutch. They can’t deal with their (name it – sexual problems, alcoholism, marital problems, dishonesty at work, etc., etc.) and couldn’t afford a real therapist, so they come to absolve their *consciences*, not their *sins*.

At the same time, some parishioners come to confession once or twice a year and shame the priest by the depth of their confessions – they take it seriously and prepare themselves very well. Who is better?

I find it very difficult to *demand* spirituality of my flock that is not *demand*ed of me by Christ or my own spiritual father. I struggle with my own confession – never feeling well prepared, sometimes just “fitting it in” to my schedule, going “because it’s Lent.”

I feel my spiritual father should just shake his finger at me and ask me when I am going to get serious about my spiritual life. If I struggle almost daily with prayer, fasting and the Christian life, how can I beat up my parishioners about the same things? I am haunted daily by the passage from Matthew read at Holy Tuesday Matins (“Woe to you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites...”).

Finally, General Confession can be a very useful tool for our faithful. It is not for everyone, and shouldn’t be used during any of the Fasts (Great Lent, the Apostles Fast, Dormition Fast, Nativity Fast) – the connection between personal repentance and fasting is too important.

People who might never give their spiritual lives a second thought have commented how much they’ve learned by going to General Confession. A thoughtful general confession leads individuals to a greater awareness of their own sins, and can lead to deeper repentance. It is also a way to get them thinking about their sins in a more regular manner when you know the frequency of personal confessions is not going to change.

We must avoid the abuse of the sacraments of confession and communion. We need to understand repentance and approach the chalice with proper preparation. But I would rather trust in the mercy, kindness and forgiveness of God for those who might approach the chalice with less than total preparation than offend Him by simply not approaching at all. It is better to eat and have a chance to live, than abstain and surely starve to death.

Youth Director position available

The Diocese of New England is now accepting applications for the position of Youth Director. This position has a part-time stipend. The qualifications include the following:

- 1) Applicant must be a confessing and communing member of a Diocese of New England parish (clergy or lay).
- 2) Applicant, if a layperson, must include a letter of recommendation from their home pastor.
- 3) Applicant must be willing to submit to normal background checks that all youth workers undergo.
- 4) It is preferable, but not mandatory, that applicant have experience at the Diocesan Youth Rally and other applicable youth work.
- 5) Must have the time flexibility to coordinate, attend and supervise the annual Diocesan Youth Rally in Contoocook, New Hampshire.

Resumé, including all pertinent youth work experience and any recommendations, should be sent as soon as possible to:

Archpriest Michael Westerberg
 Chancellor, Diocese of New England
 25 Kohary Drive
 New Haven, CT 06515

Please include name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and home parish in your application.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**May Issue
April 1st**

**June Issue
May 1st**

UConn OCF News

A small group of students began an Orthodox Christian Fellowship at the University of Connecticut three years ago. Under the guidance of both UConn faculty and Fathers Marc Vranes and Dennis Rhodes, we have been growing ever since. Through campus outreach, community involvement, and word of mouth, the UConn OCF currently has fifteen active members.

Each week we meet for either Vespers and a Bible Study, or a student-led discussion. On Sundays, we carpool to Holy Trinity Church in Willimantic. Students participate in church activities, including singing, serving, and teaching church school. As a group, we volunteer at the nearby Holy Family Home and Shelter.

Over the past year, we have gone on retreats held by St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Boston University. Several students also attended the East Coast OCF College retreat. Last march we hosted a talk by Dr. Peter Bouteneff of St. Vladimir's Seminary, supported by FORCC, as well as a retreat led by Fr. Michael Anderson, the OCA Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adults, this past November. Also, we participated in events at local churches, sponsored a family for the holidays, and gathered together socially.

On March 29th, we are looking forward to sponsoring a lecture given by Fr. John Kaloudis from the IOCC, titled "Ministering to the Least of My Brethren". In this spirit of Christian ministry, some students are planning to spend spring break at Raphael House, a shelter in San Francisco.

Since our inception, we have been blessed with enthusiastic support from local parishes, allowing us to broaden our various activities and efforts. We pray that this enthusiasm will continue to grow along with the UConn OCF.

FORCC Notes

The Annual Scholarship Benefit Banquet has been set for Sunday, October 5, 2003. The guest speaker will be His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman.

Scholarship information was reviewed. Two additional scholarships valued at \$1,000 each, will be awarded to one girl and one boy, along with the current FORCC scholarships at the October banquet.

We ask God's blessings on our very generous benefactress, Helen Smerznak. Helen donated \$20,000 to establish the "Smerznak, Medak, and Kidwell Scholarship Fund." Helen is a member of Three Saints Church in Ansonia, and recently made a similar donation to her home parish. Many thanks!

Paschal greeting billboards are in the works and will be placed in various locations around the state.

Results from the survey distributed in our parishes on the possibility of establishing an Orthodox Christian School will be publicized soon.

More information will be forthcoming regarding the same-sex marriage petition and pending legislation.

Father Michael Westerberg made the voice of Orthodoxy heard in a firm and compassionate tone at the Connecticut State Capital at the rally held on January 29th in support of the Defense of Marriage Act. Father Michael was asked to be a lead speaker along with Jewish leaders and other Christians. The members of FORCC who attended the rally were deeply impressed with the tone and delivery of Father Michael's address.

FORCC petitions all Orthodox Christians to participate in legislative efforts that support the strengthening of family and marriage.

Reminders were sent to member parishes that their annual membership commitments are due. All the faithful in Connecticut are invited to meetings of the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut (see schedule in *On the Docket*, page 2).

- Barbara Ann Dixon

PARISHES FROM 3

with knowledge and discernment as she begins the wondrous journey!

Our Sisterhood is busy preparing for the annual Meatfare Sunday Brunch, which has become a tradition in our parish. Everyone enjoys the last feast of bacon, ham, sausage, etc. before Pascha – we like to think of it as a modest (and much more tame!) Mardi Gras. We haven't been able to manage getting the floats down to our hall though!

New Haven, Connecticut

A wee bit late, but still sincere, special thanks to Toni Cherniavsky and Natalie Kruchok for donating the beautiful Christmas wreaths that adorned the front of our Church.

During the month of January, we sponsored a "card-recycling" program. Old, used Christmas cards were collected and sent to the St. Jude's Ranch, a nonprofit, nonsectarian home for abused and abandoned children. God's blessings and Many Years extended to Lloyd and Daria Kirjanov Mueller on the joyous occasion (January 11th) of the Baptism and Chrismation of their infant son, Matthew.

Heartfelt sympathy extended to Elizabeth Schaffield on the loss of her beloved husband, Joseph; Olga and Shirley Farm on the loss of their beloved sister and aunt, Luba; Nada and David Sizemore on the loss of their beloved sister, Zora, who resided in Chicago; Margaret Kosciuk on the loss of her beloved sister, Lore, who resided in Germany; Poloukhine family on the loss of their beloved grandfather, Nikita; and the Takores family on the loss of their beloved Anne. God grant them eternal rest.

The "R" Club held their annual holiday luncheon on January 12th at the Rusty Scupper in New Haven. Following dinner, a short business meeting was held with the election of officers.

Congratulations and Many Years to our newly elected FOCA officers. Spiritual Advisor, Father Michael Westerberg; President, Natalie Kruchok; Vice-President Martha Asarisi; Secretary Jean Cherniavsky; Treasurer Toni Cherniavsky; Sports Chairman Martha Asarisi; District Trustee Barbara Pope; Youth Co-coordinators Martha Asarisi and Alexis Swan; Journal Correspondent/Publicity Barbara Ann Dixon. We extend our sincere thanks to our outgoing District Trustee, Alexis Swan for a job well done.

Congratulations to Alexis Swan on being selected to serve on the OCA National Humanitarian Aide Committee. Also congratulations to proud parents Steven and Rebecca Edwards on the January 25th arrival of their newborn daughter Alexa Nicole. Alexa has an older brother, 3 1/2 year old Jake. Of course, the very proud great aunt and great uncle, Matushka Lydia and Father Michael Westerberg are beaming from ear to ear. May

God bless all with good health and many years.

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual holiday luncheon at Brazi's on January 26th. Parishioners were invited to join on a Dutch treat basis. The food was excellent (so was the fellowship); we ate so much we all waddled out the door. Barbara Pope, who coordinated the affair, was wished a very Happy Birthday.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Choir Directors graduate

Congratulations to those completing the requirements of this inaugural diocesan introductory training course for church musicians during the past two years:

Lydia Garasimowicz, and Christopher Savisky
Matushka Elena Pismenny (audit)

Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport

Andrew Boyd, Gail Ferris, and Nona Richards

St. Alexis Church, Clinton

Tanya Bogaevskaya

St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA

Alice Unschuld

Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Bethel

Stacey Pimpinelli

Three Saints Church, Ansonia

Eight of fourteen original applicants completed the program, and one audited the course. We met four times each year to combine practical components of directing, with learning about the Orthodox Faith and the role of the choir in the life of the Church. Participants learned about the divine services, the order of these services, and how to arrange texts for feast days, etc. They also worked on

DIRECTORS TO 8



Graduates of the choir directing program with Fr. Steven and Cindy Voytovich and Valdimir Morosan, Instructors

Hierarchical Schedules

Following are the schedules of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, Auxiliary to the Metropolitan, for the Diocese of New England only. Schedules are subject to change.

*HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN HERMAN
MARCH*

March 22-23: Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston

APRIL

April 13: Three Saints, Ansonia, CT

MAY

May 7-9: SCOBA Bishop’s Conference
May 21: Diocesan Council, New Britain

*HIS GRACE, BISHOP NIKON
MARCH*

March 2: Ss. Peter & Paul, Meriden, CT
March 6: Connecticut Deanery Meeting, New Britain
March 8-9: Nativity of Holy Virgin, Waterbury, CT
March 22: Vespers, Annunciation, Maynard, MA
March 29-30: Three Saints, Ansonia, CT

APRIL

March 31-April 3: Spring Session, Holy Synod
April 5-6: St. Jacob of Alaska Mission, Montpelier, VT
April 10: Christ the Savior, Woodbury, CT (Retreat)
April 13: Three Saints, Ansonia, CT (Holy Unction)

DIRECTORS FROM 7

directing skills and participated in discussions on a number of topics.

The final assessment process for the program included an opportunity to direct and receive feedback from Fr. Steven, Matushka Cindy, and Vladimir Morosan. Vladimir has been a valuable resource both as presenter, as was David Drillock from St. Vladimir’s Seminary.

Several participants were able to attend the Diocesan Assembly in Kingston, MA, and were recognized both in assisting in directing the assembly services and in receiving their certificates of completion. One even went as the parish representative! Those unable to attend the assembly were recognized in mid-December when Bishop NIKON visited St. Alexis parish. Thanks goes to all the parish pastors who committed themselves alongside those participating in the program. It is our hope that those completing this two-year program of study will continue to seek efforts to grow and develop their directing skills.

Those interested in pursuing this training are asked to contact Fr. Steven and Cindy Voytovich either by phone 203.453.4405, or by e-mail: voytsc@earhlink.net Congratulations to those completing this phase of their training!
– Fr. Steven and Cindy Voytovich

April 19: Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston
April 21-27: Boston Cathedrals (ALB & NE)

MAY

May 7-9: SCOBA Bishop’s Conference
May 21: Diocesan Council, New Britain

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