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## **RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RETIREMENT OF METROPOLITAN THEODOSIUS**

WHEREAS we the hierarchs, priests, deacons, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America have received an abundance of blessings through the ministry of God's servant, our beloved Metropolitan THEODOSIUS.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th All-American Council express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS on the occasion of his retirement from his primatial duties, assuring him of the continued love, fervent prayers and abiding respect of all the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

## **RESOLUTION ON THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE**

WHEREAS Canada is a part of the canonical territory of the Orthodox Church in America; and

WHEREAS this year of the Lord 2002 marks the golden jubilee of Her Majesty Elizabeth II;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th All-American Council that we offer on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America best wishes to Her Majesty for many blessed years.

## **Introduction**

This document will review the goals of the 13th All-American Council and summarize Reports and Addresses, Workshops, Bible Study Activity, Parish Profile Results, Focus Forum Activity, Luncheon Discussion, Youth Activities, and other activities held during the week of the Council. The official minutes will provide more detailed information of the Plenary Session activities and decisions. Appointments for Council assignments are also found in the official 13th All-American Council Minutes.

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## 13th All-American Council Goals

- a. to explore a vision of the definition and dimensions of the Orthodox parish in North America (keynotes, plenaries, workshops)
- b. to dialogue on the challenges of building and rebuilding Orthodox parishes which fulfill this vision and to receive and give encouragement to one another's efforts (plenaries, workshops, forums)
- c. to identify and share practices and principles for meeting these challenges in a spirit of learning, growth and discernments (workshops, forums)
- d. to adopt a stable method for funding the Central Church which will allow the Church to effectively support the needs of parishes and dioceses through effective programs (Fair Share)
- e. to align the agenda and activities of Central Church units and programs to the specific needs of contemporary Orthodox parishes (forums)

## 13th All-American Council: Overview

The 13th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America was held in Orlando, FL from July 20-26, 2002. The number of participants made this the largest Council of our Church. Almost 2000 clergy and lay people attended the Council. The inaugural Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 21 drew 1,200 worshippers. The Youth/Young Adult Program had over 450 registered participants.

### Highlights of the week:

The Office of the Primate: Following the first plenary session of the Council Metropolitan Theodosius formally retired and the Office of Metropolitan was declared vacant. The first ballot of the canonical election process did not result in any candidate receiving two-thirds of the votes cast. A second ballot was issued and the names of the top two candidates were submitted to the Holy Synod. The Holy Synod elected Archbishop Herman as Metropolitan.

Report of the Primate and Chancellor: The Reports of Metropolitan Theodosius and Protopresbyter Robert Kondratich are published in the July-August 2002 edition of *The Orthodox Church* and may be found on-line at the OCA web site: [aac.oca.org](http://aac.oca.org). Both reports reflect on the mission and growth of the Orthodox Church in America from the unique perspectives of the Metropolitan and the Chancellor with their long years of service.

Church Finances and the Fair Share Resolution: The Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, Fr. Dimitri Oselinsky, reported on the finances of the OCA in the past triennium. In compliance with the resolution passed at the 12th All-American Council, the Metropolitan Council presented a 2003 operating budget for the OCA based on the needs of the Church, with the 13th All-American Council charged to develop a fair share system of financing that budget. A Fair Share Resolution recommended by the Metropolitan Council with the blessing of the Holy Synod was presented by Fr John Dresko and adopted by the Council.

The Grand Banquet served as an opportunity to honor the 25 Years of Primatial Service of Metropolitan Theodosius and to greet the new Primate of the OCA. With over 1,200 people attending, the Master of Ceremonies was Serge Schmemann, Jerusalem Bureau Chief of the *New York Times* and son of Fr. Alexander Schmemann of blessed memory. On behalf of the officers and staff of the Chancery of the OCA, Protopresbyter Robert Kondratich thanked His Beatitude for his steadfast and fruitful work on behalf of the Church. His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, recalled the passion of Metropolitan Theodosius for the unity and common witness of Orthodoxy in North America. His Eminence, Metropolitan Kyrill of Smolensk, representing His Holiness, Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow, combined personal recollections of His Beatitude with an energetic call for a renewed dedication to making fruitful use of autocephaly in Orthodox mission and witness. Our new Primate, Metropolitan Herman, offered eloquent testimony to his close relationship with Metropolitan Theodosius and the challenges of being his successor in the Office of Primate. Finally, Metropolitan Theodosius himself reflected on his 41 years of service in the Church as priest, bishop and Primate.

Commemorative Video: A video commemorating the life and service of Metropolitan Theodosius was introduced at the Grand Banquet. Copies were given to all parish delegates to share with their congregations.

Council Business and Activities: In addition to the activities noted above, the Council included elections to church-wide positions, resolutions, information workshops and forums, and a plenary Bible Study. More information on these activities can be found throughout this Summary.

The All-American Council adjourned after a memorable week of accomplishment, inspiration, and even exhaustion! The 14th All-American Council will gather, God-willing, in 2005 at a location to be determined by the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod of Bishops.

## Keynote Address

The keynote address was given by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko at the 4th Plenary Session. Fr Hopko used his paper "The Orthodox Parish in North America", distributed church-wide before the Council, to lead a discussion by the delegates of the following critical issues:

1. The Church: Do our parishes live as if they understand themselves to be the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic?
2. Worship: Do our parishes live as worshipping communities, glorifying God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?
3. Pastoral Care & Counseling: What opportunities exist in our parishes for people to grow in their spiritual life? Do parishioners learn to apply Orthodox Christian principles to all aspects and issues of life?
4. Education & Enlightenment: What educational and training opportunities exist in our parishes to equip the faithful of all ages and at every level of church involvement?
5. Mission, Charity, Philanthropy: How is God glorified through our use of money, property, resources, and talents in our parish life?

## Workshops

Workshops were offered before and during the Council. They were designed to meet the expressed interests and needs of participants in light of the Council theme. A brief description of these workshops follows. More information is available at [aac.oca.org](http://aac.oca.org).

### Saturday afternoon

#### ***Principles of Christian Leadership and Dealing with Challenging People***

(Raymond Boyd) This session anticipated the themes of two Council workshops.

Goals: to explore the definition, characteristics and role of a Christian Leader; to understand how enhancing leadership skills can contribute to the Parish; to help participants become more effective in leadership by bringing out the best in people.

#### ***Music: A Blessed Ministry***

(Michelle Jannakos, Coordinator; Bishop JOB, Fr Sergei Glagolev, Dr Peter Jermihov, Vladimir Morosan, Fr Benjamin Peterson, Valerie Yova Sheets)

Goals: to explore dimensions of contemporary church singing and to share practical ways of using music as a means to strengthen the parish.

#### ***The Learning Centered Parish and the Focus Curriculum***

(Connie Tarasar, Bev Cingolani, Myra Kovalak)

Goals: to explain the concept of 'whole parish education', to introduce the FOCUS website and be fully aware of what it provides and to explore questions, difficulties in using the material, and to propose improvement to the effort to date.

### Tuesday evening

#### ***Principles of Christian Leadership and Dealing With Challenging People***

(Raymond Boyd)

Goals: to explore the definition, characteristics and role of a Christian Leader, to understand how enhancing leadership skills can contribute to the Parish.

***Strategic Parish Planning*** (Fr Timothy Ullmann)

Goals: to present an overview of strategic planning for the parish-vision and mission statements, parish assessment, evaluation, and prioritization; to examine sourcing ministry and writing and implementing a ministry plan.

***Come, Let Us Worship: From Right Worship to Good Works: The Worship Driven Parish***

(Fr Daniel Rentel, Fr John Zdinak, Elaine Rentel)

Goals: to explore a model of an Orthodox Christian parish which puts worship at the heart of its Mission.

***Positioning the 21st Century Parish to Fulfill the Orthodox Mission in North America***

(Fr John Reeves)

Goals: to address the necessity of functional structures in Orthodox parishes for overall parish health.

***Integrating Orthodox Immigrants into the Orthodox Church in America***

(Fr. John Matusiak, Fr John Tkachuk, Fr Constantine White)

Goals: to explore strategies for serving the needs of immigrants while also integrating them into parishes of the Orthodox Church in America.

***Parish Profile 2002: Implications and Challenges***

(Joseph Kormos)

Goals: to review the results of the Parish Practices Profile Survey and define implications for building up parish life.

***Thursday morning***

***Dealing with Challenging People***

(Raymond Boyd)

Goal: to help participants to become more effective as a Parish leader by bringing out the best in people.

***Implementing Bible Study in the Parish Learning Model***

(Fr Michael Dahulich, Fr John Hainsworth)

Goal: to communicate an enthusiasm for bible study as an integral part of a parish's educational ministry.

***The Learning Centered Parish***

(Connie Tarasar, Bev Cingolani, Myra Kovalak, Connie Tarasar, Valerie Zahirsky)

Goals: to discuss contemporary parish education, the FOCUS internet site, and traditional educational materials and approaches.

***Music: A Blessed Ministry***

(Michelle Jannakos, Coordinator; Bishop JOB, Fr Sergei Glagolev, Dr Peter Jermihov, Vladimir Morosan, Fr Benjamin Peterson, Valerie Yova Sheets)

Goals: to explore dimensions of contemporary church singing and to share practical ways of using music as a means to strengthen the parish.

***Youth (Not an Optional) Ministry***

(Fr Michael Anderson)

Goals: to articulate a definition of parish youth ministry, to help participants evaluate their own parish youth ministry, to suggest ways to initiate or enhance youth ministry.

***A Parish Management Model for the Twenty-first Century***

(Fr Paul Kucynda)

Goal: to offer a working model for effective parish management to meet the challenges of an ever-changing membership.

## Parish Profile Summary

### Background

The Preconciliar project team undertook a survey of parish practices in June, 2002. The survey, or parish profile as it was called, was distributed to all OCA parish priests.

### Objectives:

1. To provide Council delegates with significant data to allow them to reflect on parish life and the needs and challenges of the entire church.
2. To assist parish leaders in identifying opportunities for improvement in their own parish practice, especially in light of differences in practice between growing, static and declining communities
3. To create a baseline of current parish practice.

### The Data

The survey included over 70 questions. A total 161 surveys were completed. The results may not be meaningful for parishes in the non-territorial Dioceses or in Alaska and Canada, given the low (7%) response. The rate of response for the other Dioceses over all was 41%. Our analysis suggests that the survey population accurately represents a cross section of parishes from these Dioceses. Response to the survey was large enough and representative enough to be useful in fulfilling the objectives of the survey.

### Key Findings

A complete summary of data and findings has been posted at [aac.oca.org](http://aac.oca.org).

**Growth** -Parishes describing themselves as having "good" or "fair" growth outnumber those identified as being in "slow" or "serious" decline by approximately 3:1.

**Liturgical Language**- Four out of five parishes use English only. Less than 2% of parishes use no English.

**Parish Size** - Parishes are small. About 100-125 parishioners - including children -is average.

**Converts** - While the percentage of parishioners who are converts varies widely, the typical parish has about 25% converts.

**Orthodox Immigrants** - One-third of the parishes are experiencing a material influx of immigrants from traditionally Orthodox countries.

**Service Frequency** - Fifty-six percent of parishes have two services or fewer per week.

**Pastoral Changes** - Over half of respondent parishes changed pastors in the last ten years.

**Facilities Issues** - Seventy-six percent of parishes are dealing with one or more facilities issues, including major renovation, new iconography, purchasing property or planning a new building.

**Characteristics of Growing Parishes** - Parishes identified as growing ("fair" or "good" growth) shared some or all of the following characteristics:

- average age of parishioners is getting younger.
- likely to be experiencing an influx of immigrants
- likely to have a higher concentration of converts
- infrequent pastoral turnover
- frequent services, substantial participation in services
- a high proportion of the faithful are frequent communicants and participate in confession often
- a high level of participation in adult education.
- strategic planning, growth or parish ministries planning are the central focus of parish council activities.
- likely to use pledge forms, stewardship committees and all-member canvases as part of their stewardship practices.
- likely to make use of such things as a web site, parish brochures, adult retreats, etc...

## Focus Forum Activity

Focus Forum sessions were held on Tuesday, July 23. Council participants were randomly assigned to small discussion groups: clergy with clergy and laity with laity. The purpose of these sessions was to document the response of participants to a series of specific questions. Facilitators were assigned to help with the process. The attitudes, perceptions, and opinions expressed were noted. The small groups shared their reflections on a selected challenge with the entire Forum group. A summary of some of this material is found in Appendix A.

## Focus Forum Questions

What is your parish's greatest strength?

What is the biggest challenge facing your parish?

What do you believe is the underlying cause of this challenge?

What resources would be valuable in helping you to address this challenge?

From where would you expect assistance to most logically come? (circle all that apply)

Parish            Deanery            Diocese            Central Church            Seminaries            Outside Resources

From the following list, circle the category which best describes your challenge.

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Financial Leadership       | f. Pastoral Vocations          |
| b. Leadership Skills          | g. Parish Growth & Evangelism  |
| c. Facilities Planning        | h. Orthodox Awareness Identity |
| d. Establishing a new parish  | i. Christian Education         |
| e. Youth/Young Adult Outreach | j. Other_____                  |

## Bible Study

At the 5th Plenary session Fr Andrew Morbey gave a presentation on the importance of the study of scripture in the parish and facilitated a plenary bible study activity. The text of the bible study activity is attached in Appendix B.

## Luncheon Discussions

Fifteen Luncheon Panel Discussions were organized by Arlene Kallaur.

Tuesday

### ***Sharing Thoughts in Faith After September 11th***

Moderator: Fr Christopher Calin, New York

Presentors: Fr John Stefero, Chaplain, Fr George Johnson, Johnstown, PA, Fr Constantine White, Washington, DC

### ***Mission Parishes: Sharing the Successes and the Struggles***

Moderator: Fr Paul Kucynda, Wayne, NJ

Presentors: David Donlick, East Stroudsburg, PA, Fr Stephen Freeman, Knoxville, TN, Debra Korluka, St. Croix Falls, WI, Fr Robert Skidmore, Ashland, OR



**"Stand Still!" "Shhh!" "Stop That!" Helping Children Develop Appropriate Behavior in Church**

Moderator: Fr Michael Matsko, Livonia, MI

Presentors: Janie Memorich, Broadview Hts., OH, Kyra Moore, Columbia, SC, Fr Nicholas Wyslutzky, Olyphant, PA

**College Graduates: Finding a Place in Parish Life**

Moderator: Fr John Reeves, State College, PA

Presentors: John Mindala, Broadview Hts., OH, Sarah Schwebach, Minneapolis, MN, Melissa Tesar, Broadview Hts., OH, Nicholas Woog, Minneapolis, MN

**Life as a Caregiver: Ways the Parish Can Provide Support**

Facilitators: Donna Karabin, Vienna, VA, Natalie Stavrevsky, Bolling AFB, DC

**Visualizing Your Parish: The Role of Iconography in Personalizing Your Parish**

Facilitator: Dr Richard Schneider

**Wednesday****Living Your Faith In The Workplace**

Moderator: Vicki Jones, Kansas City, KS

Presentors: Nicholas Ressetar, Harrisburg, PA, Dr. Leon Sheean, Cleveland, OH

**Reaching Out to Our Parish Elderly**

Moderator: Elaine Kalina, Minneapolis, MN

Presentors: Lydia Garasimowicz, Bridgeport, CT, Margaret Hopkosky, Broadview Hts., OH, Sue Janos, Staten Island, NY

**FOCA: Serving the Church through Fellowship and Outreach**

Moderator: Sandy Fedorko, El Paso, TX

Presentors: Fr Eugene Vansuch, Bethlehem, PA, Michael Bowen, Chicago, IL

**Adjusting to Life Without One's Spouse: How the Parish Can Help**

Moderator: Dr Albert Rossi, Crestwood, NY,

Presentors: Mat. Diane Pelesh, Ellicott City, MD, Jewelann Stefanar, Parma, OH

**Trauma Survivors: Healing the Brokenhearted** (What do crime victims, abuse survivors, survivors of suicide and natural disasters have in common? How is healing possible without turning to addictions?)

Facilitators: Lyn Breck, Wadmalaw Is., SC, Mary Ann DeTrana, Richmond, VA

**Thursday****Orthodox Involved in New Opportunities for Outreach**

Moderator: Arlene Kallaur, Syosset, NY

Presentors: Fr Joseph Kopka, Wheaton, IL, Fr David Lowell, San Francisco, CA, Fr Thomas Moore, Cayce, SC, Joan Stroner, Chicago, IL, Christine Zebrun, Ft. Worth, TX

**Raising Children in the North American Culture**

Moderator: Fr Vladimir Aleandro, Oxford, CT

Presentors: Dn Jeremiah Crawford, Santa Rosa, CA, Alexandra Morbey, Ottawa, Canada, Stephanie Reimund, Akron, OH, Kitty Vitko, Livermore, CA

### ***Working with the FOCUS Education Curriculum: Sharing Tips, Experiences and Ideas for the Future***

Moderator: Connie Tarasar, Yonkers, NY

Presenter: Michelle Jannakos, Flint, MI

### ***OCA Youth Movement: Deanery Based Your Ministry Efforts - What it is. What it is not.***

Moderator: Fr Michael Anderson, Syosset, NY

Presentors: Fr John Armstrong, Littleton, CO, Dr John Schultz, Weirton, WVA

### ***Accompanying the Dying: Medical Heroics or Palliative Care?***

(What are the obligations and limits of appropriate care for the terminally ill?)

Facilitator: Fr John Breck, Wadmalaw Is., SC,

Presentors: Fr Steven Voytovich, Clinton, CT, Fr John Chudik, Bradenton, FL

## **Youth and Young Adult Activities**

Under the direction of Fr Michael Anderson, a group of 450 Youth participants and 50 adult chaperones spent a week full of activities focused on faith, fun, and fellowship. An outline of activities is attached in Appendix C.

The Youth reflected on their week in a plenary presentation on Friday morning. Over 300 young people came to this final session of the Council.

## **Special Presentations and Events**

On Monday evening the traditional Alumni Seminary Receptions were held.

The FOS Reception was held following the Tuesday evening Plenary Session

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, participants were given free time from formal Council activities to enjoy the sites or Orlando or participate in other special interest activities. These included the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of the South, a discussion on the use of Liturgical Music, information sessions organized by the IOCC, OCPC, Project Mexico, and Project Alaska.

The Clergy Wives Breakfast was held on Thursday. Both Metropolitans thanked the wives for the remarkable support they provide to their husbands, families and parishes

On Friday Clergy and Laity Breakfasts were served, with guest speakers addressing each group. Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese spoke to the clergy delegates on the challenges facing priests today'. Bishop Basil of the Antiochian Archdiocese spoke to the lay delegates on the need to focus on living a life in Christ within the parish.

## Resources

The Project Team members are able to provide additional information on any of the Council activities. The list below includes the presenters of the activities contained in this Summary Document.

### Project Team

Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick	rsk@oca.org
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Dr. Alice Woog	alice_woog@wayzata.k12.mn.us

### Presenters

All Luncheon Discussions:	Mrs. Arlene Kallaur	arlene@oca.org
Keynote Address:	Very Rev. Thomas Hopko	thopko@svots.edu
Bible Study:	Very Rev. Andrew Morbey	oca1794@rogers.com

### Workshops

Rev. Michael Anderson	mike@oca.org
Mr. Raymond Boyd	rboyd@academyleadership.com
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## APPENDIX A

FOCUS FORUM SUMMARY OF RESPONSES to the question of where help for challenges to the parish should come from

A Help with Financial Stewardship should come from:

Central Church (15), Parish (12), Outside Resources (10), Diocese (11),  
Deanery (5), Seminary (3)

B Help with Leadership Skills should come from:

Parish (30), Diocese (22), Outside Resources (16), Deanery (16), Central Church (15), Seminary (6)

C Help with Facilities Planning should come from:

Parish (19), Outside Resources (14), Diocese (6), Deanery (5), Central Church (3)

D Help with Establishing a New Parish should come from:

Diocese (6), Central Church (5), Parish (5), Deanery (5), Outside Resources (3), Seminary (2)

E Help with Youth and Young Adult Ministries should come from:

Parish (12), Outside Resources (8), Diocese (13), Central Church (7), Deanery (7), Seminary (1)

F Pastoral Vocations

G Help with Parish Growth and Evangelism should come from:

Parish (46), Central Church (41), Diocese (36), Outside Resources (24), Deanery (15), Seminary (7)

H Help with Orthodox Awareness/ Identity should come from:

Diocese (25), Parish (24), Deanery (15), Central Church (15), Outside Resources (11), Seminary (5)

I Help with Christian Education should come from:

Parish (4), Central Church (3), Diocese (3), Seminary (2), Outside Resources (1)

## APPENDIX B

### THE PARISH COMMUNITY: A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

#### A Quick Look at the Epistle to the Philippians

1. As we reflect on our parish communities it can be helpful to look at community life in the Apostolic Church. The issues and concerns raised in the Epistles have always been understood by Orthodox Christians to have a universal and timely application to our life in Christ. Studying the Epistles we are often inspired by the positive aspects of life in these first parish communities - and we can draw important lessons for today from the apostolic teaching. Among these lessons are those connected with overcoming problems in community life.

2. Most Orthodox Christians will know the beautiful hymn to Christ found in Philippians 2:5-11. This Epistle also tells us a good deal about the Apostle Paul and his co-workers and the life of the apostolic community. The Apostle has great love for the community at Philippi and he is entirely optimistic that the good work God has begun to work through them will continue. The Philippians have supported his ministry financially and with their prayers, and this care and intercession is also a mark of their supportive relations with his co-workers and for one another. Faithful to the Apostle and his teaching, they share his enthusiasm for the Gospel. They are hospitable. The mutual love of the community is obvious. All in all, the Philippians are a stable, strong and admirable Christian community.

#### 3. Problems for the community at Philippi

Although the Apostle writes with enthusiasm about the good work and spiritual health of the community, he is concerned about two emerging problems. The first is the threat of false teaching concerning salvation. The second is personal conflict between two zealous women.

(Phil. 3:2f) Look out for the dogs, look out for the evil-workers...

(Phil. 4: 1-3) Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. And I ask you also, true yokefellow, help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the gospel.

False doctrine and personal conflict are capable of causing division in the community and poisoning its life. The predatory teachers St Paul refers to insist on the observance of Jewish law and customs. This undercuts the power of the Good News and is counter-intuitive to the apostolic teaching: salvation is a spiritual gift, not a product of observing the Law, and righteousness is found only in Christ. False doctrine and teachers who add to or subtract from the apostolic faith and attempt to lure the faithful away are perennial threats to the stability of community life.

Harmony in parish life is an expression of unity in Christ. Factions and grudges and disputes subvert the work of Christ - but even devoted Christians can suffer from the temptation to squabble or take sides.

#### 4. Strategies to overcome these and similar problems

The Epistle is full of positive reinforcement for the many ways in which the Philippians express their Christian faith and support for the work of the Church. St Paul affirms and supports all the good things that they have done. He has no doubts that they will overcome the threat from false teachers and the dangers of interpersonal conflict - as long as they continue to live as they have been doing.

Here are ways in which, following the teaching and advice of St Paul, the faithful can meet the challenges of ecclesiastical predators and personal tensions - and parishes can live like apostolic communities!

The danger of false teachers is best met by:

- wariness concerning new teachings
- fidelity to what has been taught by the Apostle
- measuring all teaching against the Gospel
- strong relationships within the community
- following the good example of other believers
- courage

Conflict is best addressed by:

- helping the conflicted
- emphasizing those things that the community has in common, and
- especially the unity in the faith,
- consciously striving for oneness of mind, for love, for agreement,
- working in common to advance common goals,
- being aware of both the needs of others and common needs,
- examining one's own motives
- humility
- living without complaining and disputation
- following the example of Christ's humility and service
- following the example of faithful Christians
- fidelity to the teaching of the Apostle
- patience
- countering despair with hope and certainty
- conversation should be 'becoming'
- focus on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, any virtue, anything praiseworthy

5. Overcoming problems and temptations is rooted in joy. Recalling the great goodness and mercy of God in Christ, the faithful renew their profound joy and confidence, and this in turn is a source of stability. They can thus not only withstand false teachers and overcome conflict, but stand fast in the face of all adversity and even persecution, secure in the sure knowledge that salvation comes from God and is given to those who endure in the faith.

## 6. Questions for Reflection

The virtues of the Philippian community are attractive and inspiring. How do our communities measure up to this example of faithfulness, mutual love and support for the work of the Church?

Are there predatory teachers and sectarian teachings threatening our communities today? What positive steps can we take to help each other resist such temptations?

Do you think interpersonal conflict is a problem in parish life? Are we good at dealing with conflict? What can the clergy, lay leadership, and parishioners in general do to help prevent or overcome conflict?

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## APPENDIX C

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Building upon similar statements made at the 11th and 12th All-American Councils, the Youth and Young Adults of the 13th All-American Council made a presentation to the Holy Synod of Bishops, Council delegates and observers about their experience at the Council and its theme of the parish community. In their presentation they shared their sincere desire to be fully integrated into the life of the Church and to grow in Christian fellowship and mutual service

Youth Observers were divided into four age groups: 6 and under, 7 to 9, 10 to 12, and 13 to 18. Each group discussed aspects of the theme "Our Parish, Our Home". The 6 and under playgroup explored the theme "The House that God Built", identifying the people in the church, the structure of our churches, and ways to draw closer to Christ. The 7 to 9 group talked about "God's Blueprint," highlighting the ways in which we are affirmed in the Church and participate in its ministry. The 10 to 12 group discussed "My Church, Our Home," looking at how the Church is built upon the foundation of Christ and their own place in the Church community. The 13 to 18 year olds talked about "My Parish: The Journey Home," reflecting on their ultimate "home" in God's Kingdom, and examining their place and role within the Church, how they are fed by the Church, and how they can spiritually strengthen those around them.

Most afternoons the Youth Observers went to theme parks (DisneyQuest, Wonderworks, Universal Studios Islands of Adventure, Wet-N-Wild, Fun Spot). This time gave the youth a chance to have fun and build up their relationships with other Orthodox youth. Time spent at the theme parks gave the staff an opportunity to get to know the youth better and to share in their discoveries about their faith. What was discussed in the lessons was often found in the interaction of the youth with each other and the staff.

The Young Adult Observers (eighteen to twenty-seven) attended the Council plenary sessions and had several activities designed for them, including a series of discussions, presentations, and workshops. They were able to attend several of the theme parks. Opportunities for fellowship also included the Monday evening Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theatre, and time in "The Meeting Place" fellowship room available most nights with food and music for young adults

Throughout the week, our youth and young adult observers expressed the desire to meet before the next All-American Council. In many cases Orthodox youth feel isolated from Orthodox fellowship. The chance to meet and socialize with Orthodox people their own age means a great deal to them. Can the time between Councils be used by deaneries for youth activities?

## APPENDIX D

### EVALUATION FORM SUMMARY

A comprehensive survey was conducted at the conclusion of the 13th AAC to understand attendee's reactions to facilities, agenda and related activities.

#### Quantitative Results

1. How well did the council meet your expectations?
  - a. Not at all: 0%
  - b. Not very well 3%
  - c. Expectations met 32%
  - d. Somewhat exceeded 30%
  - e. Greatly exceeded 30%
  - f. No Answer 6%
  
2. Hotel Accommodations; Schedule of Worship Services; Exhibit Areas; Registration Process; Youth Activity and Ad Book
  - a. These questions were answered poor, fair, good, excellent
  - b. Over 92% of respondents rated these as good or excellent for each of these evaluation areas.
  
3. On Site Meals
  - a. Poor 5%
  - b. Fair 27%
  - c. Good 44%
  - d. Excellent 23%
  - e. No Answer 1%
  
4. Banquet meal; Banquet Program
  - a. Over 93% of respondents rated both the meal and program as good or excellent.
  
5. Pre-Council Documents
  - a. Poor 3%
  - b. Fair 13%
  - c. Good 51%
  - d. Excellent 28%
  - e. No Answer 5%
  
6. Church Wide Focus Groups
  - a. Poor 1%
  - b. Fair 9%
  - c. Good 59%
  - d. Excellent 19%
  - e. No Answer 12%
  
7. Workshops
  - a. Poor 2%
  - b. Fair 10%
  - c. Good 51%
  - d. Excellent 19%
  - e. No Answer 17%



8. Luncheon Discussions
- |    |           |     |
|----|-----------|-----|
| a. | Poor      | 2%  |
| b. | Fair      | 10% |
| c. | Good      | 40% |
| d. | Excellent | 16% |
| e. | No Answer | 32% |
9. Bible Study
- |    |           |     |
|----|-----------|-----|
| a. | Poor      | 2%  |
| b. | Fair      | 14% |
| c. | Good      | 40% |
| d. | Excellent | 12% |
| e. | No Answer | 32% |
10. Access to e mail
- a. 11% indicated they did not have access to email.

### Qualitative Results

The following are some of the most relevant open ended comments received on the forms.

1. How do you plan to use the resource documents that you have received?
- Share with Church family (parish), coffee hour or informal discussions
  - Parish presentation and/ or report
  - Present to parish council
  - Adapt or implement information for use within parish
  - Display (make available) materials at church
  - Share in Church School, Adult class, workshops or group discussions
  - Parish Bulletin
2. Plenary sessions
- Needed more (some) time on council theme
  - Fr Hopko -more time for his presentation
  - Some speakers spoke too long and took away from table discussion time and important business
  - Finish resolutions and proposals earlier in the week
  - Fr Morbey - more time for discussion
  - Bible Study presentation too short
  - Frs Morbey and Hopko 's talks should be recorded and distributed
  - Should have more plenary sessions and fewer workshops
  - No plenary sessions at night
3. Workshops and Discussion Groups
- Workshops ,Discussion groups, Focus Forums were excellent but too short
  - Need more workshops discussing solutions to challenges
  - Need more workshops on learning and information
  - Workshops , not enough emphasis on development of specific skills
  - Need more music activities- may be 2 day conference during, before, after council
  - Need "directed workshops" led by qualified leaders on urgent issues, "How to..." study scripture; talk to nonbelievers about Christ ; lead a bible study; Church models for missionary presence in community
  - Too many workshops
  - Good to have more workshops and discussions

- Opportunities for continuing education for clergy
- Needed to address needs of adult singles in our church
- Focus Forums should be grouped by church size and age of parish
- Great materials

4. Scheduling

- Keep to schedules, start on time, better time management
- More free time, schedule exhausting, unable to spend time with family
- More time between activities for transit, rest stops
- Too many activities in too little time
- Council too long, could be shortened to 2-3 days
- Wish council could have been longer

