

His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Herman
Archbishop of Washington and New York
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

December 13, 2007
Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska
Wonderworker of All America

Reverend Fathers, Parish Council members and beloved faithful:

I greet you during this holy season of the Nativity Fast and trust your spiritual preparation for the glorious Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been, and continues to be, a rewarding experience.

With this letter I take the opportunity to share with you recent developments with the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS). Since June 1, 2005 I have been the Director of FOS, succeeding Fr. Joseph Fester. During this period much has happened in the life of the Orthodox Church in America that has had a great impact on the Church, especially with voluntary giving. The OCA financial crisis has led many of our faithful Church members to withhold their voluntary gifts to the National Appeals, including the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards.

During the October 16-17 meeting of the Metropolitan Council, a budget for 2008 was presented by the Metropolitan Council Finance Committee. The budget reflected a recommendation that the duties of the Development/FOS Director be eliminated with the duties being subsumed into the Treasurer position. This recommendation was adopted with the passage of the new 2008 budget.

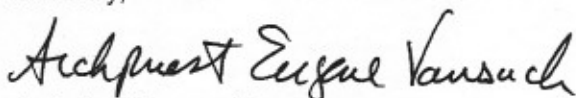
What this action means is, effective December 31, 2007, I will no longer be the Development/FOS Director. Fr. Michael Tassos, the new OCA Treasurer will inherit these responsibilities and be charged with overseeing this position. FOS will continue to exist with the same dedicated effort it has over the years and be the source of funding for the Departmental work of the OCA.

I am grateful to His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman for granting me the honor to serve as the FOS Director for the past 2-1/2 years. I enjoyed personally meeting many of you on my frequent FOS parish visits and communicating with you via phone, email or personal letters. Sharing with you the importance of supporting FOS is something that I encourage as the Departments are essential to the work of the Church.

I offer my personal thanks for your past loyal support and commitment for FOS, especially during my tenure in office, and ask that you consider renewing your generous and faithful annual FOS commitment.

I wish you joy and peace with the coming Nativity Feast and the blessings of the New Year.

Sincerely,



Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Director
Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards

PS: Kindly post or reproduce for parish-wide distribution. Thank you.



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The Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards

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