



Update on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan

Many of the seeds ‘planted’ at the 16th AAC are *beginning* to germinate

- ▶ Of the 7 goals:
 - 4 are being piloted at the Diocesan level:
 - Leadership and Management *Diocesan Revitalization
 - Continuing Ed *Holy Conversations
 - 3 are being developed at the central church level:
 - Evangelization and Parish Development;
 - Youth; and *Continuing Education
 - 1 depends on grass-roots local actions: Inter-Orthodox Relations
- ▶ These are modest first beginnings
- ▶ They need our nurturing to grow to their great potential

Evangelization & Parish Revitalization

(PoCC: Fr. John Reeves; IFT: Fr. John Reeves)

Goal : Develop a training module on articulating Orthodoxy to the various cultures in North America

► Progress:

- Recruited a core team: Frs Parker, Ivanoff, Tate, Reeves, Pdn Myers, Dn. Cadman and Joe Kormos
- Fr. John Parker meeting with bishops, chancellors, deans and clergy throughout the OCA
- Existing programs and materials collected and readied for on-line distribution

Growing Leadership in the Church

(PoCC: Fr. David Lowell; IFT: Fr. David Lowell)

Goal: Focus on leadership in the deanery (peer mentoring, lay participation, mission planting, continuing ed, youth[†])

► Progress : Piloting in Diocese of the West

- Expanded the number of deaneries (from 5 to 6)
- Devoting part of next Diocesan Assembly to deaneries
- Requiring all Deaneries to meet at least twice a year and to keep and share notes of plans and progress

Management in the Church

(PoCC: David Zavednak; IFT: David Zavednak)

Goal: provide templates/guidelines that can improve the efficiency of day-to-day operations

► Progress:

- Surveyed and identified existing resources
- Based on discussions with priests and parishioners identified 'parish finances' as an area of primary need. e.g
 - Reporting financial info to parishes, dioceses, and government
 - Savings and investments
 - Auditing of financial records

► Next steps:

- Develop and make available exemplar templates

Youth and Young Adults

(PoCC: Fr. John Vitko; IFT: Fr. Christopher Rowe)

Goal: use social media to enable our youth to network and share their experiences of life in the church

► Progress

- Close coordination with OCA Dept of Youth & Young Adults
- ASurveyedA youth at summer camps
- Developed, deployed and monitor a OCA Youth Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/yyaoca>)
- Nearly completed an intro video

► Plans for near future:

- Expand content of Facebook Page
- Develop a Twitter-based outreach

Continuing Education

(PoCC: Fr. Chad Hatfield; IFT: Fr. Ian Pac-Urar)

Goal: *Provide a means for the continuing education of clergy and laity*

► Progress:

- SVOTS developing an Office of Continuing Education at the seminary in response to their internal surveys
- Holy Synod has blessed a pilot project to establish an OCA Office of Continuing Education — to be housed in the offices of the Romanian Episcopate
 - Initial emphasis on legal and ethical issues (e.g. sexual misconduct), later on leadership and management training
- Diocese of E. PA piloting continuing education sessions

Diocesan Revitalization

(PoCC: Fr. John Shimchick; IFT: Mrs. Donna Karabin

Goal: Develop web-based Diocesan Resource Banks and book of joint youth-elderly projects.

- ▶ Progress: pilot program by Diocese of E. PA
 - Established an active Diocesan Revitalization Committee and a Revitalization page on the diocesan website
 - Abp Tikhon added weekday visits to his parishes
 - Design and strong response to a Diocesan Talent Survey
 - Adapted Parish Health Inventory Model to the needs of E. PA
 - Instituted series of diocesan continuing education sessions

Inter-Orthodox Relations

(PoCC: Judge Ray Lanier; IFT: Mat. Wendy Cwiklinski)

Goal: promote “grass-roots” pan-Orthodox efforts to complement the top-down efforts of the Assembly of Bishops

► Progress

- Surveyed and provided examples of the many existing pan-Orthodox efforts, both clergy and lay

► Next steps

- Draw on existing examples to develop a ‘How to get started/best practices’ guide

Contemporary Issues

(PoCC: Pdn Michael Myers; IFT: Fr. Caleb Abetti)

Goal: create a template for "Holy Conversations" to discuss moral issues confronting Orthodox in 21st C.

► Progress:

- Developed an initial template for 1 -2 day 'Conversation'
- Initial pilots planned on Marriage and Human Sexuality (tentatively Diocese of New England) and End of Life Issues (tentatively Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.)
- Template submitted to Abp. Nikon for his consideration – awaiting his feedback.

In summary

- ▶ The seeds 'planted' at the 16th AAC are *beginning* to germinate
- ▶ There is a good mix of diocesan pilots and central church activities
- ▶ These are just the first small steps — they are still fragile and need nurturing to reach their potential
- ▶ A BIG THANK YOU to the Holy Synod and to the Bishops and Dioceses involved in the pilots.