



Metropolitan Council Meeting

Fall 2012

Committees/Departments Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
September 25 to September 27, 2012
Committees/Departments Reports
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Charity Committee:

Bishop Melchizedek, Synodal Liaison
Fr John Reeves, Chairman
Fr David Mahaffey
Fr Deacon Michael Myers
Dr Dimitri Solodow

cc: Fr John Jillions

1. There have been no individual Charity Requests since the last meeting of the Metropolitan Council.
2. There have, likewise, been no requests from any OCA 501-C-3 ministries
3. Committee will meet during the upcoming Metropolitan Council to consider block grants to several Orthodox Charities in response to various needs in the US and abroad.
4. Our current balance is \$ 16242.38. The majority of funding is provided by an annual \$10,000 line item in our general operations budget.
5. Finally, this will be my last meeting as a member of the Metropolitan Council. The committee will need to select a new chairman to continue the work of this ministry.

I am grateful for the time I have spent heading this committee since 2006 and for the trust conferred upon me by the Metropolitan Council. I would like to submit for the record a summary of major actions taken by the committee since that time to restore integrity to the process.

- When I assumed this charge, I discovered that no guidelines for distribution had ever been developed or employed, going back almost two decades. By 1992, custody of all Charity monies were in the sole hands of the previous chancellor.
- Guidelines now exist have been adopted by the Metropolitan Council and which, to be changed, must receive the consent of the Council.
- Standards are also maintained to qualify members of the committee, namely that those serving have had experience with service on another 501-C-3, Not-for-profit.

Nevertheless, there have been other challenges.

- As of 2006, considerable sums had been received, some for over more than a decade, which had not been distributed as per the donors' intent, namely funds for Bibles for Russia and donations for 9-11 victims. Interim administration, likewise, was attempting to "overlook" these matters. However, the committee made sure that both were paid as noted in previous reports.
- Again, more recently the immediately previous administration, both the Chancellor and the

Metropolitan, attempted to use Charity funds without discussion by the committee or application of guidelines. The Metropolitan Council rightly saw fit to restore these funds lest we had returned to the prior practice of no accountability.

The Metropolitan Council must not let down its guard now, through inattentiveness or laxity, even though the funds the Charity Committee oversees are comparatively smaller than before. I strongly urge Council not to return to the previous practice of no controls and accountability. It left itself open to manipulation and misapplication and was a clear violation of due diligence.

As well, I want to thank my fellow members and especially Melanie Ringa whose professionalism as Treasurer is to be commended. Her financial report is attached.

Sincerely,

Fr John M. Reeves

Attachment

Orthodox Church in America
Schedule of Temporarily Restricted Funds - Charity
Through August 15, 2012

Ending Balance, December 31, 2010		<u>\$ 18,420.38</u>
<i>Donations Received - 2011</i>		\$ 4,115.00
Transfer from Operating Funds		\$ 10,000.00
<i>Distributions:</i>		
- 3/15/11 - IOCC for Japan	\$ (5,000.00)	
- 3/15/11 Belveny Insurance	\$ (3,500.00)	
- 6/02/11 - IOCC for Tornado Relief	\$ (5,000.00)	
- 12/1/11 - St George Food Pantry, Pharr, TX	<u>\$ (3,800.00)</u>	
Total Distributions		<u>\$(17,300.00)</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2011		\$ 15,235.38
<i>Donations Received - 2012 (1/1/12 through 8/15/12)</i>		<u>\$ 1,007.00</u>
Balance August 15, 2012		<u>\$ 16,242.38</u>

Report of the Council Development Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

See Protodeacon Peter Danilchick's presentation.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This report was delivered in Executive Session

Report of the Ethics Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

There have been no further reports of Ethics violations to the Ethics Committee since our last meeting. If anyone has a complaint to bring forward, please contact one of the members of the committee and it will be handled in a prompt and confidential manner.

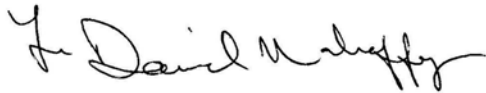
The Committee is following one possible Ethics violation and awaits the outcome of Legal Committee before pursuing it further.

The current members of the Ethics Committee are as follows [contact emails are in brackets]:

Fr David Mahaffey (Chair) [otyetz@hotmail.com]
Archimandrite Alexander (Golitzin), Bishop-elect of the Bulgarian Diocese (Synod Liaison)
Fr. John Jillions (Chancery Liaison)
Igumen Alexander (Pihach) [dpihach@gmail.ca]

Due to the replacement of the representative of the Bulgarian Clergy Delegate, Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie no longer is a member of this committee. Anyone interested in replacing Fr. Matthew-Peter, should please contact the chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. David Mahaffey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archpriest David Mahaffey, Chair

**REPORT OF FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JOINT HOLY SYNOD/ METROPOLITAN COUNCIL FALL MEETING
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2011
EAST NORWICH INN, SYOSSET, NEW YORK**

His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL

Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Holy Synod Liaison to Committee

V. Reverend David S. MaHaffey

Diocese of Philadelphia and
Eastern Pennsylvania

V. Reverend John Shimchick

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer

Orthodox Church in America
Chancery Liaison

Janet Van Duyn

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

David M. Yeosock, PE

Diocese of Philadelphia and
Eastern Pennsylvania

Chair

The Financial Development Committee (FDC) met in Syosset for a brainstorming session on ways to solicit donations to the Central Church. Many ideas were generated by the group and work begun on both on an internet and written correspondence method of increasing revenue to the Church. His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL shared his success stories with the Diocese of NY and NJ recent campaign and offered an encouraging vision in-light of their successes. All committee members agreed that a “sooner than later” approach to an appeal was certainly needed and that His Grace’s suggestions should establish a baseline approach and model. Since that time, the committee’s movement was impacted by the administration’s recent planning of the AAC and will resume its course during this session. Members of the committee are available to answer specific questions regarding our progress since the Spring Session of the MC.

Respectfully Submitted

September 19, 2011

Report of the Finance/Investment Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

This report will be in conjunction with the Treasurer's Report

Report of the Human Resources Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

No written report received at this time.

Report of the Internal Governance Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

Report was during Executive Session

Report of the Legal Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

Report was during Executive Session

Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC)

The Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC) was formed immediately following the 16th All American Council in Seattle, Washington in November, 2011. The purpose of the PoCC is to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the OCA as developed and approved at the 16th AAC. To accomplish this, PoCC members work closely with the Implementation Facilitation Teams that have been established to work with the dioceses and the central administration to implement each of the 7 goals coming out of the AAC. The job of the PoCC is to provide oversight of the Implementation Teams, ensuring consistency with broader Church directions, providing encouragement and/or nudging where needed, and helping to overcome any barriers to the implementation of these goals.

The current PoCC members are: Fr. Robert Dick, Fr. John Dunlop, Fr. Chad Hatfield, Fr. John Jillions, Mr. James Karabin, Judge Ray Lanier, Fr. David, Lowell, Pdn. Michael Myers, Fr. John Reeves, Fr. John Shimchick, Fr. Eric Tosi, Fr. John Vitko (chair).

Brief summaries of the progress to date, near-term next steps, and any outstanding issues for each of the 7 goals are given below. These summaries have been written by the respective PoCC liaisons with inputs from their Implementation Facilitation Team leads.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. John Vitko, Chair, PoCC

1. Evangelization and Parish Revitalization (*PoCC Liaison: Fr. John Reeves; Implementation Facilitation Lead: Fr. John Reeves*)

The Evangelization and Parish Revitalization (E&PR) team is on track to reach the milestones set last February to accomplish its overarching goal of equipping the OCA to share the Gospel of Christ and grow the Church. By the end of September 2012, the implementation team will have met and passed the following milestones:

1) *Effective evangelism workers and existing programs identified.* So far the E&PR team has recruited Fr. John Parker, Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff, Fr. Matthew Tate, Fr. John Reeves, Pdn. Michael Myers, Dn. Alexander Cadman, and Joseph Kormos to anchor the mission teams that will train our clergy and laity to evangelize. All have expertise, training, and/or prior experience in Orthodox Natural Church Development or church growth coaching. Jennifer McClure, a Sociology of Religion doctoral student at the Pennsylvania State University, will also serve as a consultant to the group.

2) *Support and cooperation of mission workers enlisted.* Since it is each diocese's responsibility to keep the programs that are developed running, Fr. John Parker has begun meeting with bishops, chancellors, deans, and clergy throughout the

OCA. His most recent visit was to the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania. These diocesan visits will continue throughout the upcoming months.

3) *Existing programs and materials collected and readied for online distribution.* The implementation team is currently creating a template that will be used to organize and post the resources that are being gathered. In September, the E&PR team will receive technological guidance as to the equipment and resources that are needed to maintain the online database. Our goal is to be ready to begin posting and disseminating the compiled information by September 23.

2. Growing Leadership in the Church (*PoCC Liaison: Fr. David Lowell; Implementation Facilitation Team Lead: Fr. David Lowell*)

In order to develop the Leadership goal very specifically and accountably, we are focusing on leadership *within the Deanery*. The Diocese of the West is taking this on as a pilot program and will report the progress we are making in the following areas: (1) peer mentoring of clergy (2) lay participation in Deanery planning (and cultivation of lay leaders for the Diocesan Council and committees) (3) planting new missions at the deanery level (4) ongoing education of clergy and laity at the deanery level *in cooperation with our seminaries* , (5) taking responsibility for the quality of communication and relationship between our Hierarchy and our clergy and parishes at the Deanery level, and (6) the development of shared youth programs at the Deanery level. In other words, it is our intention to internalize the goals of the OCA strategic plan at the Deanery level.

Towards this end we are taking the following steps in the Diocese of The West:

- + At the July 2012 Diocesan Council we made the decision to go from five deaneries to six, dividing our very large Southwest Deanery into two smaller Deaneries to facilitate regular deanery meetings.

- + We are devoting a section of our upcoming Diocesan Assembly to this subject and will break into planning sessions by Deanery, lay and clergy together.

- + In addition the Diocesan Assembly, His Eminence is requiring all Deaneries to meet at least twice a year (some deaneries meet much more frequently than this, while others do not meet at all) and to keep notes of their plans and progress as part of our mutual edification and ongoing reporting of this goal.

- + The Deans have added additional funds to the Diocesan Budget to cover the fairly modest increase in costs that will be incurred in this first year, with an expectation that this may need to grow further in future years.

- + It is the wish of the Deans and the Diocesan Council that the strategic plan be something that we are responsible for implementing ourselves, within our own Diocese, knowing that effective implementation will inevitably involve resources and expertise from the Church at large , e.g, bringing in Fr John Reeves to do mission growth training at the Deanery level, working with Fr Chad and others on ongoing education, etc.

3. Youth and Young Adults (*PoCC Liaison: Fr. John Vitko; Implementation Facilitation Team Lead: Fr. Christopher Rowe*):

The initial focus of the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) goal is to use social media tools (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) to enable our youth of age 13 and up to share their experiences of life in the church and to network with each other. This is seen as an important complement to parish, deanery and diocesan retreats and summer camps which bring youth together on a face-to-face basis. To date, in close coordination with the OCA Department of Youth and Young Adults, we have developed and just launched a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/yyaoca). The page has several new, interactive features such as a youtube channel that will feature original content, an interactive prayer list application, and of course space for sharing local events and photos, as well as discussion and social interaction. There are clear ‘house rules’ governing content and postings that follow the OCA guidelines for the use of social media and all postings are monitored by members of the Implementation Team. In the few short days that this page has been active it has already received more than 200 “likes”. During the coming months, we will work on expanding the content of the page in a manner that draws in even more of our youth and we will also consider developing a Twitter based outreach to our young adults. To the best of our knowledge, there are no outstanding issues which require the Metropolitan Council or Holy Synod’s attention at this time.

4. Continuing Education (*PoCC Liaison: Fr. Chad Hatfield; Implementation Facilitation Team Leader: Fr. Ian Pac-Urar*)

It has been a pleasure to work with The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Pac-Urar on the Continuing Education component. After his presentation at the last MC meeting the basic plan was approved without funding. Fr Ian visited SVOTS and learned of the development of an Office of Continuing Education by the seminary as part of their own Strategic Plan in response to internal surveys indicating the need for such a service to the Church. Dr Paul Meyendorff will serve as the Director. In addition the Holy Synod has approved an unfunded pilot project and the Romanian Episcopate has offered certain facilities as a demonstration of its own commitment to the OCA’s Strategic Plan.

5. Diocesan Revitalization (*PoCC Liaison, Fr John Shimchick; Implementation Facilitation Team Lead: Mrs. Donna Karabin*)

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania currently serves as the Pilot Program for OCA IFT Diocesan Revitalization. Strategic Plan objectives are either active or in development under the leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Tikhon and the Revitalization Committee. The committee is composed of ten clergy and lay members who have been

meeting bi-weekly or monthly since June of 2011, either in parishes or by teleconferences. They have developed a clear Mission Statement, produced and distributed to the faithful an icon card with a Prayer of Intercession for Revitalization to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, and prayed the Akathist to St. Alexis. His Eminence has added weekday visits to his parishes, especially on feastdays, where he serves liturgy as a priest and spends time in casual fellowship to allow the relationship of bishop, clergy and the people to deepen. A diocesan humanitarian project took place in July on a week-long work trip to Spruce Pine, NC in partnership with FOCUS NA. Four great administrative achievements are the development of a Revitalization page on the diocesan website, the design and strong response to the Diocesan Talent Survey, the writing of the first draft of diocesan by-laws, and the adaptation of the Parish Health Inventory Model from the Diocese of the Midwest (Joe Kormos, consultant) to the unique needs of E-PA. In the next six months, a pilot parish will be chosen for revitalization, the by-laws will be further developed and the Survey will begin development towards a Diocesan Talent Bank. All parishes are encouraged to undertake the Inventory, especially those parishes with declining membership and financial challenges. The process is acknowledged as an often times painful one, but the parishes will have the moral and spiritual support of the members of the committee and their archpastor.

6. Inter-Orthodox Relations (*PoCC Liaison: Judge Ray Lanier; Implementation Facilitation Team Lead: Matushka Wendy Cwiklinski*)

Still awaiting input.

7. Contemporary Issues (*PoCC Liaison: Protodeacon Michael Myers; Implementation Facilitation Team Lead, Fr. Caleb Abetti*)

The Contemporary Issues group's task according to Goal #10 of the Strategic Plan:

“The society around us is confronted by a multitude of issues including beginning and end of life issues; social justice issues involving poverty and the growing inequality between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’; the understanding and role of human sexuality; the belief that all values are relative, protection of the environment, and many more issues. One important way of witnessing to Christ is by how we bring our faith to address such current issues.....”

The group has chosen the term “Holy Conversations” for their ongoing efforts to create a template for discussion, consideration and contemplation of moral, ethical and social issues facing Orthodox Christians in the 21st century. A pilot discussion forum is being prepared for a “Holy Conversations” event in the Diocese of New England.

Given that some of the issues which fall under the heading of “contemporary” must certainly be faced by Orthodox Christians have the potential to be inflammatory and divisive, this group has worked very hard at trying to find the right conversational atmosphere, an atmosphere that guards and protects Orthodox teachings as well as encourages different voices to engage in the discussion. Significantly, it is also hoped that both bishops as well as some of the Church’s most respected theologians be involved in a way that brings both out of the realm of “the professional” and into a more direct teaching relationship with the Church at large.

Meeting of Organizational Clarification work group
Thursday, September 27 1:30 pm

Attending: Bishop Melchisedek, Archbishop Benjamin, Archbishop Tikhon, Bishop Michael, Archbishop Nikon, Bishop Mark, Father David Lowell, Maureen Jury, Fr Eric Tosi, Fr John Shimchick, Melanie Ringa, Jan VanDuyn, Fr John Jillions

Opened with prayer.

The meeting began with general discussion of the mission of the work group. We are concerned with the various functions of the different levels of the Church structure. More specifically, this group defined its purpose as to:

1. Find out what mission and service delivery overlaps currently exist between various levels of the church (national, diocesan, deanery and parish)
2. Examine overlaps to see if they are efficient and desirable usage of church resources
3. Identify service gaps, wherein necessary or desired service is not being provided at any level
4. Identify the mandated functions of each level of the church (mandated by civil or canon law, or by OCA statute).
5. Finally, use the determinations made above to recommend improve or optimize structural division of labor and service between various levels of the church.

Vladyka Benjamin emphasized that vast differences will exist between dioceses - what they already have in place, what they want to have, and what it will be possible for them to do in future. This must be kept in mind when dealing with "whole church" issues.

Fr David raised the question of whether a subcommittee to deal with the financial ramifications of the work group would be appropriate. General consensus was that this would be left to the finance committee, and is outside our mandate, at least at this time.

Work currently being done toward our goals is:

Bishop Mark is looking at the national departments to see if, and in what way, there is a corresponding diocesan branch or function in each diocese. Differences in diocesan geography and demographics were again emphasized.

Using Survey Monkey or some similar on-line product was discussed as a way of gathering data. Fr. Eric cautioned against over-burdening clergy with too many surveys. It was decided that surveying parish clergy would be useful only after the bishops give information on what programs and services their diocese have in place, and what they would like to have.

Possible positive derivative outcomes of the work of this group were discussed, and included:

- better understanding of diocesan staffing needs, programs for bishop development, improvement in church functions
- better sharing of ideas and resources horizontally, between parishes, diocesan, deaneries.
- possible change to the budgeting process, where the parts of the budget which cover legal or other required functions would be funded via a small census assessment, and other parts of the budget would be contingency based, with spending based on funding.

Some time was then spent on off-topic discussion of AAC arrangements and Alaskan travel plans, and questions surrounding funding for Alaskan/Mexican delegates. A special fund will be established. Geographic challenges are paramount, not necessarily economic challenges.

Action Items taken:

List of chancery staff functions (chancery staff)

Historical template of activities that have been performed nationally (Fr. Eric)

National church department functions breakdown (Bishop Mark)

Diocesan catalog of functions performed by each diocese (diocesan hierarchs)

work to be performed on the above items by the special AAC on November 13, 2012.

All members to stay on to November 14, 2012 to meet.

Meeting closed with prayer 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jan VanDuyn

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Department of Christian Education Report: September, 2012

Department Mandate

To support church school teachers, clergy, families and others engaged in faith formation for every age level. The Department's services include:

- Web-based study units
- Workshops and conferences for Christian educators
- Training in the use of available curriculum and resources
- Articles offering timely information in Orthodox periodicals
- Review and recommendation of resources, and production of new resources
- Consultant services
- Cooperative efforts with Orthodox Christian Education Commission including materials, workshops and projects

Members and Resource Persons

Chair: Valerie Zahirsky

Members: Veronica Bilas, Myra Kovalak, Daria Petrykowski, Maria Proch, Alexandra Safchuk, Jewelann Stefanar, Christine Zebrun

Webmaster: John Pusey

The Department's Work:

Regularly-Appearing Written Pieces

Weekly bulletin inserts downloadable from the Department site

Articles for each issue of *The Orthodox Church*

Parish Visits and Support

Department members visit parishes (often while traveling on vacation) to meet with clergy, teachers, directors, parents and students. These were mostly informal visits, though materials and resources were displayed and described when possible.

Department members maintain ongoing correspondence and phone contact to respond to questions and provide help with problems and needs re church school programs, curriculum and resources.

Conferences and Workshops

Regional, Diocesan and parish workshops are offered in response to requests, and also as part of the Department's own initiative.

Projects Begun in 2012

Illustrated guide to the Book of Revelation, working with Fr. George Gray

Study questions for the revised History section of Fr. Thomas Hopko's series of books entitled *The Orthodox Faith* (questions for other sections to follow).

Ongoing Projects

Website review and updating, activities and resources added to the website, monthly departmental conferences, semi-annual working retreats,

Parish Ministries Conference 2013

A follow-up to the successful 2010 conference in Cleveland, this event will take place in Washington DC. Department members will present workshops on the Christian Education track, and will work with the

other participating departments to plan the plenary sessions and other whole-group gatherings. A Department member is the overall coordinator of this July conference. This event will require a great deal of time and effort on the part of each Department member: planning, producing handout materials, gathering resources, preparing workshop content, arranging for speakers, seeing to accommodations and venues, etc.

Cooperative Activities with OCEC and Other Jurisdictions

In addition to attending the annual OCEC (Orthodox Christian Education Commission) meetings, Department members lead, coordinate and present at teacher training workshops offered by OCEC. They also take part in workshops and conferences offered by other Orthodox jurisdictions. Prominent among these is the annual Orthodox Institute sponsored by the Antiochian Archdiocese. The Department now, along with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, financially supports this conference, and Department members are often called on to be presenters.

Anticipated Projects

In cooperation with Department of Music and Translations, the Department will undertake the production of a mini-unit about the lives of Orthodox composers. After learning about composers, students will be guided in singing some of their compositions.

The Bishop's Special Table, an explanation of what is on the Altar Table and what is done in the Altar Table area, for younger children. It will be accompanied by line drawings.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Zahirsky, Department Chair

OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA) SUMMARY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Resource Handbook (RH)

Two RH articles have recently been posted on the OCA website. The first is about “Teen Education” focusing on how to engage youth in the life of the Church through passion, education and prayer. The second was developed from an interview between Resource Handbook Editor, Arlene Kallaur, and a priest in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese who describes the unique and active participation of both clergy and laity in parish prison ministry to incarcerated men and women, not only while they are in prison, but also during the critically important transition period after their release. The parish follows the guidelines of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM).

A September article about an OCA parish’s CROP Walk will be posted in time to draw attention to the Fall schedule for Church World Service CROP Walks that raise awareness and funds for the hungry and homeless. For October, we anticipate a new posting on parish ministry to service men and women returning home from combat areas along with a companion article on ministry to military spouses and children. CSHA and the Office of Military Chaplains will work together to raise awareness before Veterans Day commemorations on November 11.

Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training (CiA)

Compassion in Action is a one-on-one parish lay ministry caring for someone who is suffering in mind, soul and/or body. CSHA collaborates on the CiA volunteer training and skill development with the Department of Institutional Chaplaincies. Working together, a new CiA website has been designed to incorporate the various Development Kit documents and Power Point presentations for use by the parish: Concept Booklet, Workbook, brochure and flyer, guidelines and checklists, Akathist to the Theotokos Joy of All Who Sorrow, and more. It will be submitted in the coming days to the Lesser Synod and Chancery for approval. The next steps after approval are mentor training and selection of a pilot program parish.

2013 Parish Ministries Conference

CSHA is joining with the Departments of Christian Education and Liturgical Music in planning a July 10-13, 2013 PMC. CSHA hosted a meeting at St Luke-McLean in July. The group visited the Marymount University campus in Arlington, VA as the probable site. Fr. Tom Hopko tentatively signed on as keynote speaker.

Prison Ministry

Sub-Deacon Dennis Dunn is a CSHA Consultant and member of the OCPM Board. He is interested in presenting to the OCA Sexual Misconduct Committee a policy on ex-offenders and sex-offenders visiting or joining parishes. Formal contact with the committee was made by CSHA; response is pending.

Internet Communications

CSHA page on oca.org has been updated with new resource materials. An independent CSHA website is planned with Orthodox Web Solutions. A Facebook page is in early development.

Ministry to Deaf Orthodox Christians

(ACC Resolution) Preliminary steps: CSHA initiated contact with OCA persons having American Sign Language (ASL) skills. An inquiry was sent to leaders of the pan-Orthodox Challenge Liturgy program sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese that invites parishioners with special needs and their families to worship and fellowship. CSHA re-connected with a Church Ministries representative in the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church headquartered in NYC to ask about the Armenian Subdeacon who provides Orthodox education videos in ASL on Yahoo.com. The representative himself has experience in overseeing deaf ministry and has provided resources and referrals. While these preliminary steps have been taken, a needs assessment and formation of a working group are necessary next steps.

CSHA and Implementation Facilitation Teams

The department is available to provide resource persons and materials for IFT projects that focus on charitable outreach and parish ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Karabin, CSHA Chair

Department of Evangelization
Orthodox Church in America
Report Fall 2012

Your Eminences and Your Graces,

In the Name of the Lord, I ask your blessing!

Below is a bullet-list report of my activities as Chair of this Department. Following the list will be “growing edges”.

- ❖ Appointed in early November 2011
- ❖ December 2011: Planting grant applications accepted, reviewed, and recommendations forwarded to the Holy Synod.
- ❖ Currently in regular touch with all four priests who receive the grant.
- ❖ Supported with an end-of-year (2011) grant the ACM: Annapolis College Ministry, the only ministry, of which I am aware, in the OCA which specifically combines College Campus Discipleship and Ministry in a Church planting situation.
- ❖ January talks at SVOTS to students and separately to Matushki on Life in a Mission Parish
- ❖ Wrote major article for TOC, current issue.
- ❖ Winter 2012 began AFR Podcast for department.
- ❖ March 2012 trip to Diocese of Mexico. Spent a week working/with (A)bp Alejo and two of his missionary monastic priests, especially with an aim towards determining how to offer a planting grant to this Diocese—which differs from the ‘routine’ for cultural and financial reasons. Plans are in place and nearing fruition to help purchase/build a missionary outpost home in a mountain village, from which the local missionary priests can operate. Strong working relationship with Abp Alejo and these two hieromonks.
- ❖ Ongoing work which crosses boundaries with Ss Alban and Sergius, the international Anglican/Orthodox Fellowship, including a strong, fruitful, ongoing dialogue with the Anglican Church in North America, working point-by-point through previous, official Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue decisions, in order to bring them point-by-point back to Orthodox Christianity.
- ❖ Ongoing communication with Fr John Reeves, Fr Jonathan Ivanoff, and others (including Joe Kormos) about Strategic Plan and Evangelization.
- ❖ July 2012 Dept Sponsored Lunch/Symposium at the Diocese of the South’s Assembly in Miami. 60+ clergy and lay delegates participated. Talk and discussion posted on Ancient Faith Radio. Likewise interviewed Fr John Strickland in order to promote St Katherine’s College.
- ❖ July 2012 visit to Santos Aposteles, the first Spanish-speaking mission received as such into the OCA, Miami, FL.
- ❖ August 19-20: Dept Sponsored Diocesan Talks in Diocese of Western PA. August 19 to the gathered members of the Diocese at the Cranberry Headquarters (250+ in attendance). Gave homily on missions and evangelism to the faithful following opening Molieben. 2 hour presentation and dialogue with Diocesan clergy on Monday, Aug. 20.
- ❖ August 2012 discussions with Fr David Rucker at the OCMC on ways that this department and our OCA can formally assist and contribute to the good work of our Missions agency.
- ❖ September 5, 2012: one of five Orthodox Representatives at an Interfaith Summit on Marriage and Religious Liberty, NYC.

- ❖ Accepted invitation as Keynote for Washington DC area OCMC fundraising dinner, March 2013—invited through a Greek Parish, by way of one of my OCMC team members from Alaska last Summer (I led the Old Harbor team in August 2011, and led two previous teams to the Hogar Rafael in Guatemala).
- ❖ Tentative plans at the Invitation of Abp Benjamin in August 2013 to speak for several days across the Diocese of Alaska, particularly on the challenges of facing Protestant Missionaries in the villages. Preliminary work with Abp Benjamin with respect to Old Harbor and the planting grant.

I hope over the next year or so to be able to visit/speak at each of the Diocesan Assemblies. I also hope to speak/teach/offer a lecture or talk at St Tikhon's and St Herman's.

Growing Edges

- ❖ Need to develop membership of the department. Hoping to build a team of inspirers.
- ❖ Need to develop Spanish-speaking resource team for missions. Likewise possibly for Russian-speakers.
- ❖ Once having visited each diocese in some formal fashion, need to determine how this department can best serve/facilitate Missions, Evangelism, Church Planting, and Parish Revitalization across the breadth of the OCA.
- ❖ Need to revamp Evangelization page on OCA.org, as it is severely outdated
- ❖ Need to recruit for digital media ministry coordinator
- ❖ Need to work together across jurisdictions

Asking your holy prayers and archpastoral support and direction,

And respectfully submitted,

Priest John Parker
Chair

Department of Evangelization
Fr John Parker, chair
Recommendations for 2013 Church Planting Grants
September 2012

Summary

RETURNING

USA:	\$40,000		
		\$20,000	Lawrence, KS
		\$20,000	Shreveport, LA
Mexico:	\$15,000		
		\$15,000	San Esteban, Mexico

NEW in 2013

USA:	\$48,000		
		\$24,000	Annapolis, MD
		\$24,000	Lansing, NY

Total

\$103,000

end summary

We received quite a beautifully broad set of applications this year, five total. From Canada, Alaska, Florida, New York, and Maryland.

See following pages for details and rationale.

RANK ORDER FOR RECEPTION in 2013

Second Year Grants

1. Nativity of the Lord Fr Jason Foster Shreveport, LA
\$20,000 DOS

Fr Jason is a recent graduate of SVOTS. Young priest, young family, 6 children. Presently meeting in a well-appointed storefront. Working on land/more permanent location. Mentored by Fr John Mikita in Tyler, Texas.

Nativity of the Lord has had a “roller coaster year” emotionally and spiritually, but is “stronger than ever” quoting Fr Jason. Nativity Mission is guided by a competent pastor who is a strong leader. This mission has experienced rather rapid initial growth, and is sustaining vitality. \$20,000 recommended for second year grant.

2. St Nicholas Fr Joshua Lollar Lawrence, KS
\$20,000 Midwest

Young priest, young family with 4 children. Parish meets in well-appointed storefront. Overseen locally by Fr Timothy Sawchuck, the dean. 31 adults, 22 children. Matthew Namee (of Farah Foundation) on parish council.

St Nicholas has had a challenging year as well, as the mission struggles with overcoming baggage from its varied history. With some frank parish council meetings, St Nicholas seems to be on track, and moving forward. \$20,000 second year grant.

New in 2013

3. Holy Archangels Fr Robert Miclean Annapolis, MD
\$24,000 Archdiocese of Washington

Fr Robert Miclean is married and has two young children (one of which is newborn). Fr Robert has lived and served in the Baltimore/Annapolis area for a decade, beginning as the youth minister for Holy Cross (AOCA) in Linthicum. From there he began a college ministry—Annapolis College Ministry—to the Naval Academy and St John’s College, and in a sense has been a “missionary” to these colleges for nearly 10 years. In the last two years, he was ordained a priest and founded the Holy Archangels mission, and is now transitioning his work from College work with mission on the side to Mission parish with significant college outreach.

His work is unique in the OCA, and perhaps in North America, and is worthy of not only our assistance, but a spotlight as a model for similar work in other cities. Recommend \$24,000 first year grant.

NOT RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME

Holy Lady of Vladimir Rdr Ivan Saika-Voivod St Johns, Newfoundland
Archdiocese of Canada

Rationale: Ranks third of five new applications, and shows potential for coming years. Priest has not yet arrived to Newfoundland (he is a deacon finishing Doctoral work in Greece, and expected to arrive and be ordained and assigned this fall). I would recommend reapplying for the coming year.

St Juvenaly and His Companion Fr Mikel Bock Chugiak, AK
Diocese of Alaska

Rationale: Ranks fourth of five new applications. Also shows some promise, though (this?) Alaskan grant requires some additional thinking and planning—at least to a level that I can understand the situation. According to Fr Mikel, the Alaskan situation is not the same as planting a church in Generic City, USA, and is thus difficult to evaluate on the present model. A visit to Alaska will help evaluate this sort of request for the future. It is my hope to follow through on an invitation/suggestion of Archbishop Benjamin to travel to Alaska in Summer 2013, of course now with the blessing of the Bishop-elect.

Santos Aposteles Fr David Wooten Miami, FL
Diocese of the South

Rationale: Ranks fifth of five new applications. Shows great potential and would be first Hispanic mission in the Planting Grant program. The complexities of the reception of this mission into canonical Orthodoxy this summer need to settle and unwind for a time in order to clarify the work of the parish and the work of the attached, and perhaps symbiotic, Immigration Service. As I understand from the local dean, Fr Ted Pisarchuk, it is necessary to make sure that the local parish meets its obligations to the new priest in these early months. Encourage to reapply in the coming year.

Fall 2012 Department Report

[Institutional Chaplaincy Department]

1 DEPARTMENT MANDATE

The Department of Institutional Chaplaincies supports the ministry of full and part-time hospital, hospice, long-term care, prison, fire, police chaplains, and those in other settings.

The Orthodox Church in America is a member of the Commission for Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS Network) and endorses chaplains to serve in specific institutional settings and toward certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP).

Archpriest Steven Voytovich serves as the Department's Director, supporting the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitating dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings.

Up to his resignation, His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH has been the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Endorser for OCA clergy and lay persons who are clinically trained and serving as institutional chaplains, and recommendations for endorsement are initiated by this department. As our Metropolitan's recognition by the Department of Defense remains foundational for institutional chaplaincy's connections to COMISS and AREB (defined above), we anticipate the election of a new Metropolitan and the restoration of this vital link.

2. DEPARTMENT MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

Chair: V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich
Members: V. Rev. John Maxwell, Frs. John Brown Paul Fetsko, Alexandre Ioukhaevskikh, Michael Medis, Timothy Hasenecz, Dn. David Neff, Sarah Byrne, Elaine Mayol, Mark Anderson, Larisa Waya, Jessica D'Angio.

Resource People: V. Rev. Theodore Boback
V. Rev. Sergei Bouteneff

Website: www.orthinc.org

3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2012 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, \$6,200 expenses
- 2012 Budget Actual: \$4,000 stipend, roughly \$500 expenses (most expenses come near the end of the year for this department).
- 2013 Budget attached

4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- A first intentional Episcopal visitation of our institutional chaplains in their ministry settings occurred in September, 2011. It is hoped that with this developmental step, our bishops, assisted by this department, can make similar visitations to our institutional chaplains in the coming years.
- The Orthodox Church in America is currently represented in the following ways as of January 2012:
 - Fr. Steven was elected the Chair of Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB)
 - and member-at-large of COMISS Network.
- Two laypersons were commissioned using the new service in Boston, MA, in January of this year: Larissa Waya and Jessica D'Angio.
- Complete Compassion-in-Action program with CSHA Department to empower laypersons to engage in ministry and mentoring skills among the clergy with the support available through those who have received clinical training in ministry represented by our institutional chaplains.
 - The first portion of this program is nearly complete as of the writing of this report.
 - We anticipate moving forward with this program with parish implementation.

- We also anticipate another joint conference of institutional and military chaplains to further our involvement in the greater pastoral care and counseling communities. Earlier plans for such a meeting were put on hold as the Episcopal Assembly has called for a military chaplaincy meeting.
- Efforts need to be continued to search out other arenas of pastoral caregivers that might be supported by this department and interaction with those engaged in institutional chaplaincy in our sister jurisdictions.
- Support the Strategic Plan:
 - Our chaplains can assist with clergy continuing education; seminarian training
 - CiA Program will assist parishes in engaging in ministry development
 - Represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena
- Another previous project has resurfaced during the summer months of this year. Several years ago I was approached to write the Orthodox Church chapter for "Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) for religious traditions. Due to numerous tragedies including the sudden death of the editor of the project, it went dormant. In May of this year, I was contacted that the project now titled: *Spirituality and Healthcare Encyclopedia*, is going forward and we are all asked to obtain copyright releases for materials referenced. This is good news, and I will keep our Holy Synod apprised of progress once again.

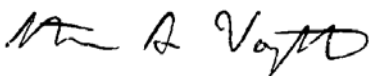
5. COMMENTS

This year in my roles as Chair of AREB and COMISS Leadership, I attended several credentialing body meetings to represent endorsers: ACPE in February, and CPSP in March. As I am also a certified member of these bodies, I have been able to pay the travel costs through work budget rather than departmental funds. The COMISS Leadership meeting occurred in August, and associated costs have been forwarded to the department. More travel is anticipated toward the end of this year, as well as in 2013 as the AREB leadership role is two years in length.

The Institutional Chaplaincy Department has only been fully formed as of about 2006 after first being established as an office in 2003. Even before forming, chaplaincy components were incorporated into the development of the original Seminarian Internship Program in 1999. We are grateful for the opportunity to form in order to support Orthodox Christians interested in pursuing institutional chaplaincy, to support ministry in parish and diocesan settings, and to represent the Orthodox Church in the greater pastoral care and counseling community nationally and internationally, bearing witness to our strong tradition of pastoral caregiving.

To date, we remain the only Orthodox jurisdiction that has taken formal steps with respect to institutional chaplaincy. Much more work needs to be done to raise awareness of this role in and beyond Orthodox parish and diocesan life. Metropolitan JONAH remains the formal endorser for institutional chaplains. This department has been contacted by an increasing number of persons from other jurisdictions with the hope of obtaining endorsement. Recognizing that ecclesiastical oversight and accountability is a significant dimension of endorsement, it is hoped that eventually institutional chaplaincy will follow military chaplaincy in being represented in some fashion under the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops to present one united Orthodox witness to the greater pastoral care and counseling community.

Respectfully submitted,



The V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich, Director
Department of Institutional Chaplaincies

Orthodox Church in America
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Report to the Holy Synod – Fall 2012

A. Music Downloads

Since January, 2002, the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations has produced “downloadable” sheet music on a weekly and seasonal basis for the “Liturgical Music Downloads” section of the OCA website.

I. *Troparia and Kontakia Project*

The Troparia and Kontakia Project, begun in 2002, has been completed. All days of the liturgical and calendar year are provided with troparia and kontakia. A variety of chant traditions are represented, including the Russian Common Chant (Bakhmetev-Lvov Obikhod), Kievan, Greek (Russo), Galician, Carpatho-Russian, Serbian, Byzantine, and Bulgarian. Special “pattern melodies” (Podoben) have also been provided as called for in the Typikon.

As of August 15, 2012, a total of 2,244 individual settings of troparia and kontakia has been posted, including 482 in cooperation with the Music Department of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

I. Music Settings for Liturgical Services (Continuation of on-going projects)

- a) During the past four years music for the services of Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy has been prepared and posted on the website for the feasts of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Elevation of the Cross, Entrance of the Theotokos, Theophany, Meeting of the Lord, Annunciation, Ascension, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Dormition of the Theotokos, St Raphael, and SS Peter and Paul. In addition to the music for the Pre-Lenten and Lenten Sundays and Palm Sunday that was published by the department in the 90’s, stichera for these pre-lenten and lenten Sundays in Kievan Chant have been added and posted on the website and are now available for free download. About 80% of the required texts for the above-mentioned feasts are provided with music. In 2013 the Department will attempt to complete this project.
- b) In 2011 the complete service (music setting of all sung parts plus texts of prayers and litanies) for the Burial of a Priest has been completed and posted on the website. In 2012 Baptism and Matrimony have been completed and will soon be posted on the website. In 2013 the Department will add similar collections for the various services of prayer and thanksgiving (Moleben).
- c) As soon as the completed text for the Akathist to the American Saints is reviewed and approved by the Holy Synod, all the music will be prepared and the full service will be posted on the website for free downloading.

- d) Work continues on the texts and music for tones 5 thru 8 for the Resurrection Vespers, the Kanons for Resurrection Matins and the stichera on the Praises at Matins. The texts for Tones 1 through 4 have been reviewed, corrected, revised, and are currently being prepared for music setting.

All the texts that are set to music and posted on the website are reviewed, corrected, and revised when necessary by competent translators who are fluent in Greek, Slavonic, and English. Translators include Archimandrite Juvenaly (Repass), Father Benedict Churchill and Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff. Proofreading and grammatical corrections are done by Dr. Vladimir Morosan. Final texts are then reviewed by Dr. Paul Meyendorff and the members of the Department.

II. Texts for Liturgical Services (On-going projects)

In 2011 a total of 190 liturgical services containing the so-called *Propers* of Vespers, pointed to be sung according to the Common Chant, was posted on the website. Approximately the same number will be posted in 2012 and 2013. These include services for all feasts and saints that call for a Vigil in the “official” Liturgical Calendar, in addition to the services of the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent and the services of Holy Week. While the services are put together by the Chairman, rubrical outlines are provided by Archimandrite Juvenaly and the texts are proofread by Dr. Vladimir Morosan.

III. Audio Files for Teaching Liturgical Music (On-going projects)

As a teaching tool the Department is making available on the website audio files (MP3) of various hymns that have been prepared by the Department and posted on the website. Thus, not only will a choir director (or singer) be able to download a specific sheet of music for use by his/her choir, but will be able to listen via the audio file and hear how the music should be sung. Already recorded and posted are the “Lord, I call” tones in both Obikhod and Kievan chant arrangements. The Department will begin to post on the website in October and November, 2012, the “Tutorial for the study of the Eight Tones, Part I” Recorded choral demonstrations of the written examples for each tone are presented, including full (SATB) choir, and individual lines for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

IV. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones (On-going projects)

Part I of the Tutorial for the learning of the Church Tones, including both the Obikhod (Common Chant) and Kievan “melodies” used for the singing of the *stichera* (Part I), has been completed and will be posted on the website beginning in October, 2012. The scheme of the tutorial is to break down each tone and identify its musical phrases. The sequence for the proper use of the melodic phrases is fully explained as well as the “formula” (intonation pattern, the recitation pitch of the body of the phrase, and cadence) for each

melodic line. All phrases are illustrated with musical and textual examples.” Recorded choral demonstrations of the written examples for each tone are presented, including full (SATB) choir, and individual lines for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

V. Music for the Church School

The Department, in cooperation with the Department of Christian Education, will inaugurate the first of a series of materials that will acquaint our young persons with the liturgical, poetical, and musical forms that are used in our liturgical services. The outline for the project has been completed and a resource person has been selected and committed for the first unit.

VI. On-line Program for Choral Conducting and Liturgical Singing

During the past winter and spring, eight sessions for the module on basic choral conducting have been completed. The relationship between text and music, accented and non-accented syllables, are emphasized in the first half of the on-line course; exercises and assignments are focused on learning the beat patterns. The second half of the course concentrates on techniques of conducting chant, singing in phrases, analyzing specific examples of both metered and unmetered music, and preparing the music for conducting. Each session consists of video and textual teaching demonstrations.

The on-line course of basic choral conducting is being reviewed by six selected Orthodox choir directors and singers. Improvements to the sessions will be made on the basis of the reviewers' comments and recommendations. Current plans are to offer the on-line course of ten sessions to interested singers in the Diocese of New York-New Jersey in fall, 2012, on a trial basis, and then, in spring, 2013, to open the course to those interested in all the dioceses.

VII. Joint Conference

In an effort to continue to provide opportunities for learning, common worship and prayer, and good fellowship for the lay leaders of our Church, the Departments of Liturgical Music and Translation, Christian Education, Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid and Youth, Young Adult and College Ministry, are planning to sponsor a three-day conference in July, 2013, similar to the very successful one that was held at Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio, in June, 2010. The Department will again use the multi-track format to offer workshops for beginning singers as well as more advanced directors and church musicians. The workshops will cover such topics as beginning and advanced conducting, tutorial in the 8 tones, liturgical composition, vocal technique, choir rehearsal skills, and reading and chanting technique.

David Drillock, Chairperson
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Orthodox Church in America
September 21, 2012

Report of the Pastoral Life Department
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2012

No report received at this time.

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries
Fall 2012 Report

Your Eminence, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Introduction

It was my distinct blessing to take over our Church's Youth Department on July 1st of this year. As you will see from this report, our first few months have been active and exciting. I anticipate this level of activity to continue. We just completed a rigorous camping season, and now enter the season of renewed campus ministry and parish youth ministry efforts. It is my hope to be in contact regularly with people who are actively engaged in all these types of ministry efforts, but it is a bit difficult for me to actually figure out who is doing what where. To this end, If you know of any significant youth work, campus ministry work, or camping programs going on in our Church, please let me know!

I have already begun to visit parishes, OCF chapters, and youth groups and I have a pretty full travel schedule for the fall. Nothing makes me happier than connecting with parishes, clergy, and committed lay people in their own settings. Seeing the work that they are doing gives me energy to do mine, and shapes the direction of our department's work. I have also met in person with the OCF Executive Director and have meetings planned with the Greek Archdiocese youth team in order to further our common work. I was blessed to attend the annual FOCA convention over Labor Day Weekend, and look forward to working with this venerable organization more closely.

I would like to discuss with the Metropolitan Council, or the appropriate committee, the long-term plans for our department's endowed funds. We have been given generous gifts, and they need to be used, and not buried in the ground.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many volunteers who assist me in the department's work. There are so many people who give their time, treasure, and talent to our work without thought of reward and recognition. The willingness of so many to work with me without any compensation allows the good work of our department to grow and thrive. Likewise, there are many people who selflessly give of themselves to our Church's camping programs, local youth ministry efforts, and diocesan events. Thanks be to God for the gifts He has given us.

Wonder

[Wonder](#), our monthly online publication, continues to publish regularly thanks to our many volunteer writers. Our metrics continue to inch steadily up. Our daily unique hits in 2010 averaged about 50 a day, in 2011 99 a day, and so far in 2012 it at 153. Our most popular issue was June 2012 and focused on "Burnout" (what does that tell us?). We've started an [archive](#) of

past articles available in .pdf format with discussion questions. We hope to give the site a “facelift” in the coming months.

Podcasts

By the time you read this report, We will have launched one podcast in collaboration with Ancient Faith Radio. Called “From My Youth”, this podcast will be interview based and will focus on concrete and reproducible resources for youth, young adult, and campus ministry efforts. Our department purchased the equipment and Ancient Faith Radio has generously taken care of the advertisement, design, and hosting costs. We are planning to launch a second podcast with them by the end of the year specifically aimed at youth.

Webinar

Utilizing the Diocese of the Midwest’s Webinar software (we thank them for their generosity), we will be offering a four-part Job Skills series free of charge and open to all (until we reach the software’s limit). The content is currently being developed for us exclusively, by Orthodox Christians who are also Human Resource Professionals. The four sessions will focus on Resume Building, Networking, Interviewing, and Developing a Work/Life Balance.

OCF

I have made it a priority of mine to reengage with OCF on a national level. Deacon Alexander Cadman, full-time campus minister at Penn State, represents us on the OCF Board with active involvement and unique competency. I speak with him and OCF Executive Director Jen Nahas on a regular basis. I have recommitted our department to giving \$10,000 annually out of budget to OCF with no strings. I hope this encourages the members of our Church to also show their generosity to this important organization. Our Department is also co-sponsoring a retreat with OCF and Saint Vladimir’s Seminary over the first weekend in October.

Strategic Planning Team

I have been pleased to work hand-in-hand with the team led by Fr. Christopher Rowe in establishing our new facebook page (www.facebook.com/yyaoca) which is constantly evolving and growing. The team brings professional experience and energy to their work, and I am grateful for all they do. We are constantly re-evaluating our social media strategy and seeking to become more interactive and innovative. Father Vitko will furnish a much more detailed report on our activities.

Youtube Challenge

We are currently also in the process of launching an oratorical festival/preaching contest for both the high school and college level via youtube. In September, our department will publish a question for each level, and video responses can be submitted up until November 1. Individual and group submissions will be welcome. A team of clergy led by Father Sergius Halvorsen

(homiletics and rhetoric professor at St. Vladimir's) will judge the video entries. The individual winner will be offered a trip to the [Festival of Young Preachers](#) in January 2013. The group winner will be offered a visit from myself or Father Sergius so that we can provide our answer to the question in person, and enjoy fellowship with them. We hope this will our opportunity for our young adults to interface with scripture, develop their apologetic and preaching skills (these skills are expected of all Christians, not just clergy) and have a space to be creative as well.

Resources for the Protection of Our Children

It is my hope to partner with chancery personnel, metropolitan council members, and professionals to asses our resources for the protection of our children and develop and broaden them. Most immediately, I would like to secure a central vendor for all background checks in our Church, and develop and implement training resources for our youth workers and clergy. There is currently, to my knowledge, no money budgeted for the development of these kinds of resources.

Campus Ministry Training

Recently our Department co-hosted a very successful campus ministry training [workshop](#) in Yonkers, NY with the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. It was free, well-attended, and highly successful. The speakers focused on practical, transferable skills and strategies, sharing from their own vast experience. We would like to replicate this in other locations. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting a similar workshop in your area. We will do all the leg-work; we just need a venue and willing participants.

With Gratitude in Christ,

Andrew Boyd

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry
Orthodox Church in America

**Fall Report Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs
Medical Center Chaplaincies**

Very Rev. Theodore Boback, Jr. – Dean/Executive Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy
Very Reverend Joseph Gallick - Assistant Dean/Deputy Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy

Vision

The Orthodox Military Chaplain is an Orthodox Priest in uniform serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplain serves in the Department of Veterans Affairs in a medical center. They are active members of the respective chaplaincy and share a common core of professional responsibilities for worship services, personal counseling, administrative duties, pastoral visitations, cultural activities, humanitarian projects, moral leadership, and appropriate collateral duty assignments.

They in addition to fulfilling the disciplines, dogmas, doctrines of faith and other canonical directives required of all Orthodox Priests, comply with the administrative requirements of their Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency.

They exercise their priestly mission in three ways: to those of the Orthodox Faith, to those of other faiths, and to those who have no religious affiliation.

Mission

The mission of the OCA's military chaplain is the propagation of the Orthodox Faith; to serve, worship, and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to bring spiritual nourishment and enlightenment to thousands of Orthodox military personnel and their families serving their country throughout the world.

The mission of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplains is to counsel and to bring spiritual nourishment through the Holy Sacraments to hundreds of Orthodox veterans in VA Medical Centers throughout the United States of America.

Operation

The Office of Military Chaplaincies operates directly under the supervision of the Metropolitan and forms a unique deanery of the Church. According to the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America (Article II section 5) deaneries within the boundaries of a diocese are established by the diocesan council. However, the Dean of Orthodox Military Chaplains is appointed by and directly responsible to the Metropolitan (Cf. Article II, section 7p).

The Executive Director and Dean of Chaplains is the chief administrator for the Metropolitan in all matters concerning the OCA chaplains in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and the Veterans Administration. The Executive Director/Dean is the representative of the Metropolitan to the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The Assistant Executive Director works together with the Executive Director. The Executive Director/Dean and the Assistant Executive Director recruit and screen candidates for the chaplaincy, prepare ecclesiastical endorsement for the Metropolitan and maintain contact with all Orthodox chaplains and with the Executive Director of the Armed Services Chaplains Board, Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Staff Chaplain and chaplain staff. . They do this through telecommunications, email, correspondence, and by participating in various meetings and site visitations throughout the world. The Executive Director/Dean provides guidance to chaplains serving throughout the world on spiritual matters and ensures that Orthodox personnel, regardless of where they are

stationed can freely exercise their religious beliefs. The Executive Director/Dean attends all conferences and executive board committee meetings of the NCMAF and ECVAC.

The Military chaplains from the Orthodox Church in America serve in the United States Armed Forces in the United States, Germany, Korea, Japan, and the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Accomplishments/Progress since the 16th All American Council

- The department successfully recruited chaplains for serves in the US Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.
- The department actively participates in the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chiefs of Chaplains each year in the month of January 2012.
- The Very Rev. Theodore Boback serves on the executive board of the ECVAC and had served on NCMAF committees.
- Provided updates to Metropolitan, Fr. Eric Tosi, Fr Jillions
- Provided an orientation briefing to Bishop Nikon, OCA member on the committee for military chaplaincy of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America and provided data to him as a member of the Episcopal Assembly Committee/Commission.
- Prepared ecclesiastical forms for submission by the Metropolitan/Archbishop Nathaniel to the various agencies
- Met with some of the members of the COMISS while attending the NCMAF/ECVAC Conferences in Washington, DC
- The department writes and presents position papers to the Metropolitan as requested and required.
- The department members made visits to Saint Tikhon Seminary and Saint Vladimir Seminaries.
- Participated in the reestablished annual Memorial Day Memorial Service for deceased veterans at Saint Tikhon Monastery.
- The department is continuing its work on the Memorial Shrine for Veterans and chaplaincy.
- Re-emphasized the financial responsibility of active duty chaplains for designated offerings (Special Appeals) and annual assessments fair share.
- Worked with (partnered) FOCA in supporting the military chaplaincy program through providing various religious materials through their gifts of love program.
- Worked with (partnered) churches, which wanted to do an outreach program.

Endorser's Conferences:

The annual National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces(NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chief of Chaplains is conducted in January annually.. Fr. Joseph Gallick has the opportunity to attend and has participated in past meeting of NAMCF and ECVAC also.

Additionally, the OCA Office of Military and VA Chaplaincy is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings. Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, Director of the OCA Institutional Chaplaincy Department attends the COMISS meetings. I have attended on occasion and have met with Fr Steven during the gatherings in that the NCMAF and ECVAC meetings are at the same location.

Military Chaplains:

Orthodox Military Chaplains perform a full cycle of liturgical services including Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, Feast Days, and services during Advent, Great Lent, the Dormition and Apostles Fasts, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts and administering the Sacraments of the Church.

Continued deployment in particular of Orthodox Priests to the Middle East during the Nativity of Christ and Theophany, Holy Week and Pascha, and Dormition Fast and Feast day. This was based upon a request

initially written by his Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman (Swaiko) and reaffirmed by Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen) to the Army Chief of Chaplains. While various Orthodox Priests (Fr. Joseph Gallick, Fr. John Anderson) initially provided the coverage, Fr. Alexander Webster had been the main deployed priest for the Army during this time frame until his retirement in 2010. Our priests such as Fr Peter Baktis deployed in earlier days to Bosnia and then in more recent times to the Middle East. Our Navy Priests, and in particular Fr. Jerome Cwiklinksi and Fr. Eugene Wozniak had several rotations to the Middle East.

Our Orthodox Priests continue to rotate on assignment to the Middle East. Most if not all of the Orthodox Military Chaplains have served in the Middle East. We have two Army Chaplains in the Middle East at this time.

The US Navy Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, has the first Orthodox Priest assigned in the history of the Orthodox Chaplaincy. However he will receive orders later this year and be assigned to the Pacific Area.

Included among the Ministry Concern of our chaplain are:

Spiritual Renewal, Ministry of Present, Readiness, Interfaith and Ecumenical Ministries Programs, outreach programs, service on various boards such as family action; biomedical ethics, advisory councils.

Military and VA Chaplain Personnel Strength

Personnel Statistics have changed through the years and continues to change based on requirements of the United States Armed Forces and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in fulfilling its missions.

Military Personnel Strength.

Our current personnel outlook is reflected in the following table: In each column the figure at the left indicate the number of OCA Chaplains while the figures within the parentheses indicate the number of non-OCA Orthodox Chaplains. The bottom line – “Totals” shows the total number of Orthodox Chaplains from all jurisdictions.

BRANCH	Active Duty	Reserve Component
Air Force 2	(3) 4	(1)
Army 7	(2) 4	(2)
Navy 3	(7) 2	(0)
Subtotals	12 (12)	10 (3)
Totals 24	13	

There are two OCA Priests who have applied for the active duty military chaplaincy. Each priest has applied to a different branch of service; hence, we pray that their application is considered, that they will be accessioned and this will result in an additional priest in each branch for providing ministry. One of the priests has been accessioned and he will report for active duty in October.

ACTIVE DUTY FORCES

- 12 (50%) of all Orthodox Chaplains on active duty are Orthodox Church in America
- 7 (29%) are priest of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
- 4 (17%) are priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
- 1 (4%) is a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia
- 0 (0%) is a priest of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese

RESERVE COMPONENT

10 (77%) of all Orthodox Chaplains in the Reserve Component are OCA

2 (15%) are priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

1 (8%) is a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese

Chaplain Candidates

Currently there are several seminarians who are participating in the chaplain candidate programs in either the United States Army or the United States Air Force. The seminarians attend St. Tikhon and St Vladimir Seminaries.

Chaplaincy Specialized Training

Both the Military and VA Chaplains received training in their particular areas.

Most if not all Orthodox Military Chaplains have training in suicide prevention, moral leadership training, personal value/values clarification, stress management, marriage enrichment, chaplain orientation, and crisis incident response and critical incident stress management.

Some of the chaplains receive specialized training in areas including: ethics, family life, alcohol and drug counseling, fund management, administration, combat developments, training and curriculum development, task analysis and development, total quality management, facility management, security management, interpersonal relationship development, leadership development, organizational effectiveness and development, marriage and family life training and counseling; clinical pastoral education; hospital ministry; and confinement ministry and volunteerism.

Both the military and VA chaplain are good resources for speaking at retreats and workshops.

Military Orthodox Priests are assigned throughout the world. The following is a list of current Orthodox Church in America military Priests serving our nation and location.

Active Duty

United States Air Force

Father Ioan I Dumitrascu Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

Father Eugene Lahue, Major, Captain, USAF – Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

United States Army

Father Peter A. Baktis, Chaplain (COL) USA Fort Bliss, Texas

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USA Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (CPT) USA Stuttgart, Germany

Father Sean Levine, Chaplain (CPT), USA, Fort Lewis, Washington

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT) USA Fort Carson, Colorado

Father Paul Rivers, Chaplain (CPT) USA Kaiserslautern, Germany

United States Navy

Father Jerome Cwikslinski CAPT CHC USN MARCENT - Camp Pendleton, CA
Father Stephen Duesenberry LCDR CHC USN Miramar - San Diego, CA
Father Eugene Wozniak LCDR CHC USN Coast Guard, Juneau, Alaska

Reserve Component

United States Air Force

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR
Father James Jadick Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, USAFR
Father Herman Kincaid, Chaplain, Captain, USAFR
Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAFR

United States Army

Father Ian Burgess, Chaplain (CPT) USAR
Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain Captain USAFR
Father Theodore Shomsky Chaplain (MAJ) USAR
Father James Sizemore Chaplain (CPT) USAR

United State Navy

Father David Pratt LCDR CHC USN
Father Christopher Kilian Sprecher, LT CHC USN

Retired Military Chaplains

There are over 30 retired Orthodox Priests from the United States Armed Forces with over of them serving within the OCA in various ministries. The retired chaplains have a range of special skills and are an additional asset within our Orthodox Church. Please read the Continuing Education Report within the Strategic Plan as well as the paragraphs above for more information.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains

Father Joseph Martin, VAMC, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Father Sergei C. Bouteneff VAMC Newington, CT serve as the Chief of Chaplain Service at their respective VAMC. Father Philip Reese was given a full time position at the Miami VAMC this past year. We are grateful for their ministry and congratulate them on their assignment within the VAMC.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as PTSC, palliative care, substance abuse; etc.

There are nine OCA Priests who serve our VAMCs

Father Sergei C. Bouteneff – Newington, CT
Father Igor Burdikoff – Albany, NY
Father Daniel Degyansky – Manhattan, NY
Father John Klembara – Brecksville. OH
Father Joseph Martin – Wilkes-Barre, PA
Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL
Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA
Father Michael Westerberg – New Haven, CT
Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

Highlights included mental and spiritual care needs of the returning OEF/OIF warriors PTSD and spirituality; spiritual aspects of mental health care interface caregiver and chaplain; health recovery program; presentation by the Secretary of the VA; VA best practices as well as interaction with the presenters and the VA Chaplain National Staff

ENDORISING CONFERENCES

- Review of the military The Orthodox Church in America continues to be an active member and participant in the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorser Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The membership is comprised of more than 200 faith groups and denominations.
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- The Orthodox Church in America is recognized by each of these organizations and the Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Chaplain Center as the endorser for OCA priests. To be considered for the military or veterans affairs medical center chaplaincy, a candidate must first have his Diocesan Bishop's Blessing, then an ecclesiastical endorsement from the Metropolitan, which is prepared by the Director of the OCA Chaplaincies as well as meet the requirements of the United States Armed Forces or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center National Chaplain Office.
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- As noted earlier, Fr. Theodore Boback serves as a member of the organizations and has served in the past on the executive board of NCMAF and currently serves on the executive board of ECVAC – having previously served as chair of the group.

Future Plans

- Review deanery – diocesan structure
- Ensure that the Orthodox Tradition is upheld in a pluralistic environment
- Participate on the committee for military chaplaincy of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America through direct (as member and consultant on the commission) and indirect (Bishop Nikon who serves as a member on the committee).
- Continue to update the Metropolitan, OCA Secretary (Fr Tosi) and the OCA Episcopal Assembly Hierarch liaison on military committee of EA (Bishop Nikon)
- 2nd Joint meeting of OCA Military, VA and institutional chaplains
- Provide materials for parish clergy and faithful about the deployment cycles, the spiritual and emotional challenges, helping caring for the caregiver
- Develop a data base of training qualifications of the Orthodox Military and VA Chaplain have and provide a link of this information to the various departments and offices as the need for certain skills and resources are needed required.
- Continue to network with the Institutional Chaplain Department and other departments and offices of the OCA
- Ensure that Orthodoxy is not dismissed as a religious body within the Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of the VA as well as in the various support organizations such as NCMAF and ECVAC.
- Maintain our role and Orthodox voice in NCMAF and ECVAC
- Be proactive with discussion and interaction with the chaplaincy programs of other autocephalous Orthodox Churches.
- Participation and interaction with the Military Chaplaincy Commission of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops
- Ensure our leadership within military and VA Chaplaincy support organizations
- Recruit and procure Orthodox Priests for active and reserve component military duty and VA Chaplaincy
- Advise the Chiefs of Chaplains and recommend the requirements for Orthodox Chaplains
- Request increased budget for the visitation of Orthodox Military and VAMC Communities
- Ensure that Orthodoxy speaks with one voice

- Continue review and work from previous meetings and workshops (sometimes limited because of funding needs and requirements)
- Update the military and VA Chaplaincy handbook
- Review and update strategic plan for military and VA Chaplaincy
- Continue work and implementation of memorial shrine for veterans and chaplains
- Diocesan recruitment plan for military chaplain
- Expand seminarian chaplaincy program
- Chaplaincy newsletter
- Continue coordination with Fr John Perich reference chaplaincy in regards the museum
- Continue to encourage the chaplains to provide articles and photographs for the TOC, Diocesan newspapers, etc
- Chaplaincy recruitment booklet and DVD
- Continued partnership with Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America and other such organizations
- Continued partnership with churches who desire to do outreach programs for our servicemembers, veterans and chaplains

Budget/Funding: The Office will continue to submit its budget requirements and suggests that a list of unfinanced prioritized requirements be part of the annual budgetary process so that should additional funds are received that these unfinanced requirements can be funded in a prioritization.

In conclusion, thanks to all who supported the Office of Chaplaincies, to Fr. Joseph Gallick the Deputy Director, to our active duty, reserve component, VA and retired chaplains and various members of the office, to the Chancery Officers and Staff for their consultation on concerns and various items. We express our gratitude to the Hierarchs for their prayers and for their support of providing qualified chaplains for the active and reserve forces of the United States Armed Forces. We express our gratitude to all who worked, consulted in support of the Office for your concerted efforts, selfless service and endeavors in all undertakings as we work in support and in ministry of the chaplains, service members, veterans and families. We continue to see changes in our nation and throughout the world with an impact on the pastoral skills required of our chaplains. We need to ensure that the Orthodox leadership role within all forms of chaplaincy are provided and are performed. In diligence and steadfastness, we need to continue on the journey before us in the 21st century so that we will go forth with faith, hope and love in all our endeavors for the Glory of God and our Church.

**Report of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)
Presented to the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America
September 2012**

Your Eminences and Your Graces,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy that I submit this report following the 86th National Convention of the FOCA. Staying true to our mission to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example, we took the following action:

- In addition to the \$120,000 transferred to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 2012 in support of their Married Student Housing Project, the convention body voted to donate \$10,000 from the proceeds of the sale of our administrative building toward our \$300,000 pledge to the project.
- A donation of \$10,000 and commitment of a loan up to \$40,000 were given to the Ohio District of the FOCA in support of replacing the water treatment facilities at the St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center in Farmdale, Ohio.
- Six college scholarships were awarded to student members totaling \$6,000.
- ZOE! For Life was chosen as the annual Gifts of Love fundraising campaign recipient for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
- A financial commitment of \$1000 was made to help support the work of OCA Youth and Young Adult Director, Andrew Boyd.

In post convention action, the Executive board appropriated \$1300 to be donated in support of a starting a new youth Sunday School program for the children whose parents are attending St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Lastly, newly elected officers for the organization are:

President Rebecca Tesar of Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio

Vice President Margaret Kovach of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Bayonne, New Jersey

Secretary Allison Steffaro of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in South River, New Jersey

Treasurer Michael Bowan of St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois

Please know that the Metropolitan Council and Synod of Bishops have the prayers and support of the FOCA Executive Board, Board of Trustees and membership. If there is any way we may be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. I also humbly ask that you keep our organization in your prayers as we work toward promoting Orthodox Christian service and fellowship throughout the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Tesar
FOCA President