



**ORTHODOX  
CHURCH in  
AMERICA**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting**

**Spring 2014**

**Committees/Departments Reports**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
February 4 to February 6, 2014  
Committees/Departments Reports  
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## Charity Committee Report

Since the Fall 2013 session of the Metropolitan Council the Charity Account has received a total of \$1,782.00 in donations and has disbursed \$689.67 to a clergy who was unable to pay his health insurance premium. In this case, his wife has a chronic and expensive-to-treat illness.

Once again, the committee is hopeful that there are more funds to do more things in the future.

Orthodox Church in America  
Schedule of Temporarily Restricted Funds - Charity  
Through January 17, 2014

<b>Ending Balance, December 31, 2011</b>		<b><u>\$ 15,235.38</u></b>
	<i>Donations Received - 2012 - Sept 3, 2013</i>	\$ 2,755.00
12/18/2012	Earmarked Donation for Hurricane Relief	\$ 10,000.00
	<i>Distributions:</i>	
12/18/2012	- Earmarked for Diocese of NY/NJ Hurricane Relief Fund	\$ (10,000.00)
11/5/2012	- IOCC - Hurricane Sandy Relief	\$ (5,000.00)
5/30/2013	- IOCC - Oklahoma Tornado Relief	<u>\$ (5,000.00)</u>
	Total Distributions	<u>\$(20,000.00)</u>
	<b>Ending Balance September 3, 2013</b>	<b><u>\$ 7,990.38</u></b>
	<i>Donations Received 9/4/13 through 1/17/14</i>	\$ 1,782.00
	<i>Distribution:</i>	
1/14/2014	Sun Pointe Health - medical insurance payment	\$ (689.67) <u>\$ (689.67)</u>
	<b>Ending Balance January 17, 2014</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,082.71</u></b>

Protodeacon Michael Myers, Chair

Bishop Melchisedek, Synodal Liaison

Fr. John Jillions, Chancery Liaison

Fr. John Dunlop

Fr. David Lowell

Report of the Ethics Committee  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2014

There are no items to report.

**REPORT OF FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO THE  
METROPILTAN COUNCIL SPRING MEETING  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> , 2014  
EAST NORWICH INN, SYOSSET, NEW YORK**

**MANDATE:**

Originating from the Statutory Authority of the All-American Council, the Financial Development Committee (FDC) was brought into existence in the fall of 2010 and subsequently defined its Charter during the Spring 2011 Holy Synod/ MC Joint Meeting as follows:

*“The [Financial] Development Committee offers guidance, suggestions and support to the central administration for annual, major, and planned giving programs. It assists the Metropolitan and Giving Officers/ Staff in identifying, cultivating and soliciting donors to the OCA. It reports to the MC, presenting appropriate recommendations for action concerning the OCA’s fund-raising policy and activity.”*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**His Grace, Bishop Michael, Synodal Liaison**  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

**Protodeacon Nazar Polataiko**  
Archdiocese of Canada

**V. Reverend John J. Jillions, Ex-Officio**  
Chancellor Orthodox Church in America

**Janet Van Duyn**  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

**V. Reverend John Dresko**  
Diocese of West

**Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer**  
Orthodox Church in America  
Chancery Liaison

**V. Reverend John Shimchick**  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

**David M. Yeosock, PE, Chairman**  
Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern  
Pennsylvania

**RESOURCES:**

The primary resource for the FDC originates from an invigorated umbrella gift giving organization, called the “Stewards of the OCA”, that acts “to articulate a compelling vision and plan for funding the outreach ministries of the Church and other Church needs.” An advisory board (not restricted to MC members) formulates the “case” for funding and training solicitors in the fundraising strategy. Donors, in turn, are cultivated and solicited to provide funds for individual ministries and special projects.

## PROJECTS SINCE LAST AAC:

The FDC has initiated three fund raising programs of varying success. The “Point-n-Click” website drive was a successful fund raising drive to assure better attendance from delegates in more remote locations for the 16<sup>th</sup> AAC. The second initiative was a letter request campaign initiated at the past AAC which solicited funds for evangelism and revitalization beginning with the members of the MC that has received positive support. The third was a second “Point-n-Click” donation page for the OCA website with emphasis on expanding the Stewards of the OCA in a stepwise approach to building new members.

## FUTURE PLANS:

Since the fall meeting of the Metropolitan Council, the committee has performed extensive work for an on-line appeal that initially ran three weeks prior to Saint Nicholas’ feast day this past Advent. The appeal included a well researched and written internet page for the Stewards that is the frontispiece of the Stewards on-line presence. Artistic attention was paid to a design of the logo for the Stewards that would be used across all platforms including letterhead. A “thank you” letter was crafted and mailed to donors and the website generated an automatic response to gifts received. Our Chancellor, Fr John Jillions highlighted our efforts in his daily blog on the Orthodox Church in America website and this helped to push the campaign via facebook. The web team’s graphic designers placed the Stewards on the front page just below the icon for the highly active Question and Answer tab. Upon the completion of the campaign, it was apparent that the commitment of the design team was paramount to the success including all the members of FDC who contributed to the project with zeal.

In addition to the committee member’s strong volunteer resources, the FDC is also grateful for the voluntary efforts that are being made by all those who helped in other ways. Many members of the MC and several bishops encouraged people in their own dioceses to become members of the Stewards. These are efforts that will need to be repeated on a regular basis as we slowly but surely plod new ground in “**building relationships**”. We have and continually need to strengthen our commitment to fundraising by following their example of getting to know the “Steward of the OCA”, thanking them, making personal phone calls or whatever we can do to assist the Stewards in making new connections with our entire Church membership.

Having addressed all the positive aspects of our campaign, there is much work that needs to be done to accomplish the mandate of the 16<sup>th</sup> All American Council. We are falling short of our goals and our FDC team member, Melanie Ringa, will be able to show in the Treasurer’s Report the actual numbers reflecting the mandated reduction in the assessment versus the results of the Financial Development Committee’s response through the Stewards. Mrs. Ringa will also comment our initial goal to secure 300 hundred members and our actual list of donors. One must say that the fuse was rather quickly lit and relationships are not built overnight. We have stressed that we need authentic, personable and inspiring people from within our ranks to reach

out and rebuild the relationships within our Church (and this is not a short term process with a quick fix approach). We are respectfully asking you: the person who cares enough to read this report, please become a spokesperson. Our cause is close to the OCA's emotional move away from assessments toward tithing and we ask you to put your heart as well as your mind into this effort. We need you to tell the Good News about the Church as we all care much and expend our time to participate to such an extent.

**COMMENTS:**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, along with Diocesan Hierarchs from the OCA supports the formation of the Financial Development Committee (FDC) and the goal of involving the entire Church in fundraising through relationship in an authentic environment.

The Stewards, those that we have currently recruited and those that will come into their ranks have a responsibility that is more than being than just being a "donor". We challenge all of our Stewards, within the vision that is the OCA, to the renewal of relationships putting behind conflicts by repair and asking advice from our future supporters to meet the needs of the Church.

Members of the Committee are soliciting comment, volunteers and will be providing much detail on this specific committee during the upcoming meeting.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**January 20, 2014**

Report of the Finance/Investment Committee  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2014

Report to be issued with Treasurer



Report of the Human Resources Committee  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2014

No written report

REPORT TO THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL – February 2014  
INTERNAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chair

Two conference calls were held with Lambrides regarding the external audit with Melanie Ringa, Archpriest Eric Tosi and Archpriest Chad Hatfield with the decision being made to continue to engage Lambrides as the auditors for the OCA. The audit is in process.

A revision of the handbook is an immediate concern and a working group will be formed at this meeting to begin the process.

Suggestions regarding a second retreat as part of the fall MC meeting are also being taken. Topics and potential retreat leaders can be given to Fr. Chad.

# Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee

Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

February 3-6, 2014

In the belief that it would be helpful to all of the members of the Metropolitan Council, and especially to those members who have joined the MC in the past year and are relatively new to the work of this body, to be reminded of the basic organization, charge and responsibility of this particular Committee. The Legal Committee will regularly provide a summary written report from that Committee to the members of the Metropolitan Council in connection with each of the semiannual meetings of the MC with respect to matters of current legal interest or concern to the Orthodox Church in America insofar as these relate reasonably to the functions and role of the Metropolitan Council in the overall governance of the Church as defined in the Statute of the OCA.<sup>1</sup> The role of the Legal Committee within

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<sup>1</sup> Article V, § 4 of the OCA Statute provides in this respect:

"The Metropolitan Council:

Implements the decisions of the All-American Council and of the Holy Synod in the areas of its competence;

Assists the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in Implementing decisions within the areas of its competence;

Establishes the budget for the operations of the Church and examines all financial reports of the Church;

Supervises the collection of the assessments and fees established by the All-American Council and determines the allocation of such funds;

Organizes plans for obtaining voluntary contributions for the satisfaction of the needs of the Church;

Provides for the maintenance of the central administrative bodies of the Church and for the allocation of the general Church funds;

Decides on the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of property of the Church, except in cases covered in Article X, Section 8;

Maintains an inventory of all properties of the Church;

Provides for the establishment and maintenance of institutions of charity and education, as well as for publications for the propagation of the Orthodox Faith;

Determines the forms and books necessary for the keeping of records and statistical data by the dioceses, requiring all statistics necessary for reports;

Appoints officers and committees on matters within its competence;

the Metropolitan Council is objectively a limited and truncated one and must be understood as separate and distinct from other attorneys charged with responsibilities for the legal welfare of the Church, particularly the important functions of Special Counsel to the Orthodox Church in America who has a broader and more defined professional responsibility to take care for specific legal interests of the Orthodox Church in America, a scope of interest and concern broader than that of the Legal Committee. Although the functions and roles of the Special Counsel and the LC MC differ in fundamental respects, the two work in a cooperative, supportive and reinforcing manner.

The Chair of the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council is Judge E.R. Lanier of Monticello, Georgia; the remaining members of the Committee are Professor Paul Meyendorff of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and Fr. Deacon Tony Dyl of Denver, Colorado. The Committee is assisted on an intermittent, as needed basis by Ms Angela Parks of Montgomery, Alabama, and by Mr. Sergei Givotovsky, an attorney now retired but very active in corporate transactions involving Russian and American interests. Mr. Gregory Nescott of Pittsburgh – a long time member of the Metropolitan Council and former Chair of the Legal Committee – is Special Consultant to the Legal Committee. Professor Paul Meyendorf brings to the Committee his expertise on issues related to canon law, ecclesiology, and church history. The Legal Committee has since the last meeting of the Metropolitan Council continued to be in contact by telephone and email, and conference calls are utilized as conditions warrant. The Committee works harmoniously with Special Counsel of the OCA and with Father Eric Tosi who, in his capacity as Secretary of the Church, has a primary responsibility under the terms of the OCA Statute for legal matters within the Chancery.

The charge of the Legal Committee is stated in the Council Members' Handbook<sup>2</sup>:

*“The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members, shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work and in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and*

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Initiates, prosecutes, and defends all legal matters affecting the interest of the Church;

May receive reports from any department in areas within the competence of the Metropolitan Council.”

<sup>2</sup> See also the original enacting resolution passed by the Metropolitan Council and blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2008 Metropolitan Council meeting (cf. Motion at paragraph 10.4 on page 11 of the minutes thereof).

*legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole.*

*The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings. The Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or email, or such other means as means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.”*

In accordance with this mandate, the Legal Committee submits the following indication of its work since the Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council in September, 2013.

### **OCA Legal Counsel**

Distributed to you separately from this Report is a copy of a letter (with its attachments) which the Chair of the Legal Committee sent to the Legal Committee and its consultants on January 9, 2014, providing information in greater detail regarding recent independent decisions of the Metropolitan to reconfigure in some measure the methods by which the Orthodox Church in America secures law-related services in specific areas of need.

At the Fall Meeting (2013) of the Metropolitan Council, the MC adopted a budget which, among many other features, set aside a sum available to secure the legal services of Thaddeus Wojcik; at that time, a draft renewal Engagement Letter with Thaddeus Wojcik, provided by him during that meeting and proposing that he assume the status of Special Counsel to the OCA, was under discussion but not yet concluded. A final written agreement was reached by Mr. Wojcik and the OCA in early January, a copy of which is attached to the above-referenced letter of January 9, 2014.

By the direction of the Metropolitan in his letter to him of January 2, 2014, Mr. Wojcik is, as Special Counsel, assigned tasks in a broad range of legally sensitive areas including oversight and monitoring of general litigation; matters touching on local, state, and federal taxation; matters in which property interests of the OCA are of concern; and the broad arena of state and federal corporation law compliance. He will be compensated at a fair and reasonable hourly rate for his legal services in these connections.

Mr. Robert Koory -a distinguished attorney from Troy, Michigan; a former Chancellor of the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese; and a member of the Holy Synod's Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC)- was appointed by the independent action of the Metropolitan on January 9, 2014, as Special Legal Liaison from SMPAC to the Metropolitan, to the Holy Synod, and to the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct

Allegations (ORSMA). In that role he will act as the primary legal liaison required in connection with all sexual misconduct matters in which the interests of the OCA are implicated, including pending and future litigation.

## **Matters Pending in the Courts of Interest to the Orthodox Church in America**

### *Susan v. Romanian Orthodox Episcopate*

The *Susan* litigation which has for several years been pending in the trial and appellate courts of Illinois now stands dismissed. Most recently, Father Susan's petition for a rehearing of his case in the First District Court of Appeals in Illinois was dismissed by that Court; similarly, his petition to the Illinois Supreme Court for leave to appeal his claims to that Court was also denied by letter from that Court addressed to OCA local counsel, Mr. James C. Geoly of the Chicago law firm of Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C. It is the opinion of Mr. Geoly that any time previously available to Father Susan for further appellate procedures in the Illinois courts has now expired. Parenthetically, the Legal Committee has been copied on recent correspondence from Father Susan to the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in which he asserts a variety of claims centering on his demand for a hearing before a Spiritual Court, a matter which in fundamental respects falls outside the competence of this Legal Committee. For your convenience and by way of background, this Committee's earlier report on this matter filed in advance of the Fall Meeting (2013) of the Metropolitan Council is reproduced in a footnote hereto.<sup>3</sup>

### *Avis Smith v. Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., et al.*

On a motion of local counsel seeking a dismissal of this suit for insufficiency of process, insufficiency of service of process, failure to establish service of process, lack of personal jurisdiction, and failure to assert actionable claims, the trial judge in this civil action filed in the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland, has now dismissed the claims of the

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"The Legal Committee has earlier reported that some years back, Father Vasile Susan ("Fr. Susan") initiated a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Chancery Division, against Defendant Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America ("ROEA"), Defendant Archbishop Nathaniel, and Defendant V. Rev. Fr. Simion Pavel, contesting Archbishop Nathaniel's decision to remove Fr. Susan from an OCA parish within the ROEA and to transfer him to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Primate. Fr. Susan seeks an injunction to compel the ROEA to convene an ecclesiastical tribunal to determine his priestly status. Fr. Susan also brings related contract and tort claims arising from his ecclesiastical transfer and statements made solely within the Church as part of that process.

Subsequently Fr. Susan's attorney issued a deposition subpoena to Metropolitan Jonah. Counsel retained to represent the Metropolitan moved to quash this subpoena on several grounds, among which were that the Circuit Court lacked subject matter jurisdiction over this obviously religious dispute. Although the Circuit Court originally held (multiple times) that the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine did not apply in this case, on reconsideration the Circuit Court dismissed the case in its entirety with prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction by order dated July 15, 2011 and affirmed its ruling by order (denying reconsideration) dated February 9, 2012.

Fr. Susan then petitioned the First District Court of Appeals in Illinois for a rehearing respecting the dismissal of his lawsuit by the Circuit Court of Cook County. On August 15, 2013, that appellate court issued its Order (Number 1-12-0697), denying Father Susan's petition for rehearing."

Plaintiff Avis Smith against “The Most Blessed Jonah Archbishop of America and Canada (a.k.a. James Paffhausen)”); certain other claims against other defendants, both corporate and individual, remain pending. A footnote hereto, drawn from the report of this matter to the Fall Meeting (2013) of the Metropolitan Council, restates in fuller detail the nature and content of the Plaintiff’s complaint in that case.<sup>4</sup>

### *Ivanov v. Notzkov*

The Chancellor of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church Diocese of the United States of America and Canada (OCA) has informally in recent days indicated that this matter, the subject of previous communications from the Legal Committee to the Metropolitan Council, appears to remain active. This Committee has previously reported to the Council that a suit (*Ivanov et al. v. Notzkov, et al.*) had been initiated in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (County Department, Chancery Division, Number 05 CH 13247), seeking a court ruling that the parish of Saint John of Rila Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church in Chicago was not subject to the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church Diocese of the United States of America and Canada (OCA). The Committee had also reported that on July 20, 2012, after 18 days of a trial which took place periodically between October 24, 2011 and May 11, 2012, a Memorandum Opinion and Order had been entered in the suit dismissing the claims of the Plaintiffs and denying the Plaintiffs’ Complaint in its entirety, specifically ruling that “Defendants [OCA party] may govern St. John of Rila [parish] under the hierarchical jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of the Diocese of the United State [sic] of America and Canada,” the Court grounding its decision on the religious abstention doctrine and “refrain[ing] from imposing the Court’s determination in the governance of St. John of Rila Bulgarian Orthodox Church.” The Legal Committee will continue to monitor this matter and make a special effort to determine the status of this litigation.

### *Thompson v. Orthodox Church in America*

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“On July 30, 2013, a civil suit (Case No. 13-C-13-95739) was filed in the Circuit Court for Howard County, State of Maryland, captioned Avis Smith v. Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The Orthodox Church in America; His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Jonah Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of all America and Canada (a.k.a. James Paffhausen) (a.k.a. Metropolitan Jonah); The Orthodox Church of St. Matthew; St. Matthew Housing Development, Inc.; Jean Byrnes; Teresa Thomas; Cheryl Campbell; Eugenia Ordynsky; Jim Dramby; John Zahore; Cooper Pappas; Wayne Hajos; Eric Hajos; and Susan Goodknight. The complaint sets forth a series of separate counts, including "Count One-Battery (Defendant Byrnes)"; "Count Two-Battery (Defendants Thomas, Byrnes, Hajos, and Goodknight)"; "Count Three-Defamation of a Private individual (All Defendants)"; "Count Four-Civil Conspiracy (All Defendants)"; "Count Five-Intentional Interference with Economic Relations (All Defendants)"; "Count Six-Wrongful Discharge (Defendants Archdiocese of Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Jonah, Orthodox Church of St. Matthew, and St. Matthew Housing Development, Inc.); "Count Seven-Employment Discrimination (Defendants Archdiocese of Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Jonah, St. Matthew Church, St. Matthew House"; "Count Eight-Unjust Enrichment (Defendant St. Matthew Church)"; and "Count Eight-Unjust Enrichment (Defendant St. Matthew House)." The factual matrix of the claims asserted in these various Counts center upon events alleged to have taken place when the plaintiff was purportedly employed in the summer of 2009 as a kitchen manager and house caterer at St. Matthew Church; her alleged employment in October, 2009 as a part-time office manager for St. Matthew House; and her employment beginning in November 2009 as office manager.”

On June 25, 2013, a lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles (Central District), Case Number BC 513443, captioned Krista Thompson, plaintiff, v. Orthodox Church in America, St. Innocent Orthodox Church, Father John Soucek, and Does 1-100, as defendants. The complaint seeks damages for negligence; negligent supervision; negligent hiring/retention; negligent failure to warn, train, or educate; constructive fraud (California Code §1573); intentional infliction of emotional distress; sexual battery (California Code §1708.5); assault; sexual harassment (California Code §51.9); and gender violence (California code §52.4). As of the time of this report, no service of process has been accomplished upon the Orthodox Church in America, although plaintiff's attorney (Barry P. Goldberg of Woodland Hills, California) has forwarded a letter dated August 8, 2013, to Archbishop Benjamin soliciting a waiver of service of process in this case. The complaint alleges in general terms that "Defendant SOUCEK was an ordained reader, choir director, and layperson ... a position of trust and stature within the church." It further alleges that "[i]n or around 2000, Plaintiff, now 13 years old ... was sexually molested and abused by SOUCEK on at least three occasions," and that the other named defendants have legal liability for reasons generally described in the complaint for these alleged acts of defendant Father Soucek. The Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America provided notice of the claims asserted in this lawsuit to insurance carriers of the Church within a matter of days of receiving notice of the August 8, 2013, letter to Archbishop Benjamin. Our insurer has acknowledged coverage of this matter and further procedures in this case are in the hands of local counsel although close liaison has been maintained with attorneys concerned for the interests of the OCA in this case. Local counsel has indicated that a trial date in the suit has been set for December, 2014. The Legal Committee will continue to monitor this litigation and report further developments to the Metropolitan Council.

#### *Crown v. Archbishop Seraphim*

The Legal Committee is informed that a decision in Case No. CR12-01-31687 (*Queen v. Seraphim Kenneth W. Storheim*), pending in the Court of Queen's Bench, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, was rendered by the trial court in Winnipeg on January 24, 2014. A statement of the Holy Synod released the day of this decision appears on the OCA website at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) and provides further details regarding this matter. The Committee will continue to monitor this proceeding and will report developments in the case as they transpire.

#### ***Other Matters with Potential Legal Implications for the Orthodox Church in America***

##### *Xenia Weigel Estate*

As noted in earlier reports of this Committee to the Metropolitan Council, the Orthodox Church in America was named the residuary beneficiary of the estate of Xenia Weigel, a Pennsylvania resident prior to her death. At its meetings in both Fall 2012 and Spring 2013, the Metropolitan Council took action, later blessed by the Holy Synod, at the urging of another beneficiary of the estate to release approximately \$185,438 to the benefit of that beneficiary. Because of reservations regarding certain distributions later asserted by the



Counsel for the Weigel Estate in an attempt to achieve an amicable and informal settlement of this Estate, the Pennsylvania attorney representing the OCA in this matter made formal demand before the Orphans' Court for a formal accounting and adjudication of the matter. The proposed order prepared by Estate's Counsel was taken under consideration by the Court in Pennsylvania and, on January 10, 2014, it entered a Decree Absolute in the matter, essentially ordering a distribution of the assets of the Estate as prayed by the attorney representing the Weigel Estate. On January 20, 2014, the OCA was notified by its attorney of a communication from the attorney representing the Estate that an additional asset of the Estate of an approximate value of \$100,000 had been discovered since the entry of the Decree Absolute and that supplementary procedures before the Orphans' Court would be necessary to take this additional amount into account in a revised Decree Absolute.

#### *Task Force on OCA Statute Revision*

At its meeting in October, 2013, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America blessed a proposal supported by the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council to establish a Task Force on OCA Statute Revision in an effort to address a number of issues, ambiguities, and anomalies identified in the present Statute over the course of the past several decades. Archbishop Nathaniel has now been named by the Holy Synod to chair this Task Force; in addition, Archpriests John H. Erickson, Alexander Rentel, Dimitri Cozby, and David Brum have been named to serve in this group, along with Father Ioan Cozma, a canonist of the OCA Romanian Episcopate. The OCA Archivist, Alex Liberovsky, and the Chair of the Legal Committee are also members of this Task Force. The Holy Synod has made clear its intent that the revision of the OCA Statute be a "top to bottom" undertaking, this with the objective of making the revised Statute an instrument which will be a useful tool in the management of all the affairs of the Church well into the future. The Task Force has already met twice, the first session a telephone conference for organizational purposes on November 13, 2013, at which Father Alexander Rentel, a noted canonist on the faculty of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, was named Secretary of the Task Force; the second meeting hosted by Father David Brum was convened under the leadership of the Archbishop at the Church of Saints Peter & Paul in Phoenix, Arizona, during the period January 15-17, 2014. The Task Force has adopted the objective of an early completion of its draft revision in order to allow ample time for a thorough and Church-wide vetting of its proposals in revision of the Statute in advance of the All-American Council to be convened in Atlanta in July, 2015, at which time it is intended that the revised Statute will be put forward for adoption by the delegates to that AAC for submission to the Holy Synod for its final blessing.

#### *Adoption of Revised Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct*

At its meeting at the Chancery in October, 2013, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America took action to adopt revised *Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct* (PSPs). These now appear, as adopted by the Holy Synod, on the OCA website at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org). The effort to revise the previous (2003) version of the PSPs in order to improve these in line with the experience of the Church since their

original adoption was supported and advanced by a number of officers and agencies of the Church, including legal advisers to the Church and, to a more limited extent, members of the Legal Committee. At the spring meeting of the Metropolitan Council, the existing draft of revisions to the PSPs was approved and recommended to the Holy Synod for its consideration and adoption; subsequently the Synod reviewed these revisions and identified certain issues for further consideration. The working group primarily responsible for the redrafting of the PSP's – the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Advisory Committee (SMPAC)– thereafter addressed these issues, and it was their revised draft of the PSP's which received the unanimous blessing of the Holy Synod in October, 2013.

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The Legal Committee concludes this Report of its activities since the September 2013 meeting of the Metropolitan Council by making particular note of its enduring gratitude for the past professional services of Mr. Thaddeus Wojcik as General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America. Thaddeus' commitment and devotion to the Church and her legal welfare has been – and, in his new capacity as Special Counsel to the Orthodox Church in America, will undoubtedly continue to be – an encouragement and inspiration to each of us who serve on or in association with this Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

E. R. Lanier

Chair, Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

## **Report of the Strategic Planning Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC) to the Metropolitan Council – February 2014**

The Post Conciliar Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the OCA Strategic Plan approved at the 16<sup>th</sup> All American Council (Seattle, 2011). The current committee members are: Fr. Robert Dick, Fr. Chad Hatfield, Judge Ray Lanier, Fr. David Lowell, Pdn. Michael Myers, Fr. John Shimchick, Fr. John Vitko (chair) and Mr. David Zavednak. This committee only provides oversight, it does not do the actual implementation – that is done by Implementation Teams for each of the major goals – and to them goes the credit for the accomplishments listed below.

As reported at the Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council most of these goals are being incorporated in a natural, sustainable way into the normal life and infrastructure of the Church – both at the central administration level and at the diocesan and deanery levels. The treasurer and the OCA Financial development committee are pursuing new ways of funding the church. An annotated bibliography of evangelization related sources has been developed and transitioned to the OCA Department of Evangelization. And a format for discussing sensitive contemporary moral issues in an Orthodox context has been developed and piloted and is available for use by an interested parties.

Progress on the remaining areas is summarized below:

Continuing Education: during 2013, the newly created OCA Department of Continuing Education provided a 5 hour on-site presentation on “Clergy Sexual Misconduct” to 5 dioceses (Canada; Washington, D.C.; NY/NJ; the West; and the Romanian Episcopate) and is schedule to present to the Bulgarian Diocese in June 2014. There have been 256 “self-reports” of clergy taking continuing education courses and more are known to have taken courses but not yet self reported. The dioceses with the highest level of participation are Canada, Washington, D.C., NY/NJ, the West and the Romanian diocese. We are somewhat behind in developing on-line course offerings but these are expected to become available in February of 2014 Several issues have emerged – carry over of course hours; whether continuing education is required for retired clergy; and accreditation of outside training – and policy recommendations addressing each of these are being presented to the Holy Synod.

Continuing education also occurs at multiple levels, including the seminaries and the dioceses. For example, St. Vladimir’s Seminary continues to plan and develop Continuing Education programs, working with dioceses, deaneries, and the alumni association. Regional groups wishing to host a program should contact Prof. Paul Meyendorff, SVOTS Director of Continuing Education.

Diocesan Revitalization is being actively piloted by two dioceses: that of Eastern Pennsylvania and that of Western Pennsylvania. In addition to a broad range of revitalization activities – e.g. clergy retreats, continuing education and growing outreach programs (Prison Ministries, a coffee house, a food pantry) – both dioceses have placed

significant emphasis on parish development and revitalization and have adopted modified forms of the Parish Health Inventory Model (PHIM) developed by Joe Kormos and the Diocese of the Mid-West. Eastern PA has established a Revitalization Committee under the active leadership of Bishop Mark and Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. This committee continues to urge parishes to conduct the self-examination and implementation of the PHIM. As of October, about 7 parishes were using it, with about 4 to start. Bishop Mark has request monthly progress reports from the parishes but there are varying degrees of compliance. Western PA is working with Joe Kormos to implement the PHIM in their diocese via a strategy of working closely with 5 yet-to-be-selected focus parishes while still being able to provide ad-hoc assistance to other parishes. Fr. Bill Evansky, the Chancellor for W-PA, reported that “Phase II has recently begun with my fervent hope that our clergy and laity will embrace this program as a catalyst for discussion within the community. No “specialist” can come into our communities and “make them grow”, we are responsible for that progress since the local priest and parish lay leaders know the needs of their parishes best. However, this Parish Development Program can be an important tool to sharpen our focus...I feel that 2013-2014 will be a critical year in determining the future of this program by monitoring the active acceptance of it by our communities, not necessarily by “counting new heads” in the 2014 census count.”

Leadership: has focused on deaneries as the place to grow both clergy and lay leadership and is piloting this in the Diocese of the West. As noted by Fr. David Brum, the Dean of the recently created Desert Deanery: “most of this is being done of our own volition and out of our own desire to move forward. The youngest of the deaneries, i.e. the Desert Deanery, is making all efforts to maintain a commitment to accomplishing more for our communities on the deanery level. I also see this happening within the majority of the deaneries, each in its own and unique way. The Rocky Mountain Deanery is another fine example of this”

Management: is developing administrative tools and guidelines that individual parishes may find useful should they choose. Initial efforts have focused on financial tools and are being coordinated with the OCA Treasurer, Melanie Ringa. The team has already developed an Excel based Income and Expense Reporting Tool and a set of Auditing Guidelines which they have provided to Melanie. They are currently working on “Guidelines for Parish Treasurers”.

Youth and Young Adults: This team has focused on using social media to enable the interaction of young adults throughout the country (and the world) and to present a ‘daily liturgical presence on social media’. Our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/yyaoca](http://www.facebook.com/yyaoca)), already has over 1,300 ‘likes’ and regularly reaches thousands of Facebook users. To keep this vibrant, we have new postings nearly everyday. The most effective postings seem to be spiritually centered items with a good picture and a short text. Other popular features include our Prayer Corner, Famous Orthodox, and Where Were You on Sunday features – as well as our short videos, such as our Lenten series. In early 2014, we are hoping to debut a new video feature called a “Moment with the Met” in which we present His Beatitude with questions that our Facebook users have submitted and for which we video record his answers using Skype and then post them on the Page. We are very

excited about this feature. We have also begun to expand our presence to other social media – most notably Twitter and Tumblr – and will continue to do so in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. John Vitko,  
Chair of the Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC)

Report of the Task Force  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2014

No written report

**Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America**  
**Report to the Metropolitan Council: February 2014**

Department Members

- *Chair:* Matushka Valerie Zahirsky
- Mrs. Veronica Bilas, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mrs. Daria Petrykowski, Miss Maria Proch, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, Mrs. Jewelann Stefanar, Matushka Christine Zebrun

Regularly-Appearing Written Work

- Weekly downloadable bulletin inserts, relating to Bible readings and/or commemorated saints for that week, general theology, reviews of relevant books or movies
- Articles for TOC or the OCA website
- “Featured” seasonal activities or articles on the Department website

Recently-Completed Projects

- Pamphlet entitled “12 Questions about Orthodox Worship” with brief answers to frequently asked questions, downloadable on the Department website for use as a handout in tract rack or parish study guide
- Set of 3 plays on the prophets Jonah, Daniel and Elijah, each with activities and discussion questions for various age groups, downloadable on the Department website

Work in Progress

- Written text for those icons of the North American saints that have small numbered pictures of the saint’s life events surrounding the central icon of the saint. The text, a life of the saint, incorporates the numbered pictures so that the icon can be explained in a story. We plan, with Fr. John Matusiak, to have these enlarged to poster size.
- Study unit on the lives of prominent hymnographers, with music incorporated in the lessons. This is being done in cooperation with the Department of Music and Liturgical Translation. Completed lesson material on Cosmas the Melodist has been sent to that Department.
- The fourth in the Department’s series of Activity Books. Working title is “Saints Who Were Served by Animals.” Each book has the lives of 12 saints with accompanying activities and puzzles, dates and places relevant to saint’s life, liturgical verses for saint, iconographic portrait of saint, map of saint’s travels, photographs of saint and of relevant places/events for more recent saints. Glossary.

*Dept. of Christian Education Report to Metropolitan Council February 2014 (cont.)*

*Conferences, Meetings, Workshops*

- Department chair took part in and presented at “Evangelism Summit” at Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, South Carolina, September.
- Department chair and members presented at Orthodox Institute at Antiochian Village, November. (This event partially co-sponsored by our Department along with Christian Education Departments of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Antiochian Archdiocese.)
- Department member attended Orthodox Christian Education Commission meeting, July.
- Department members presented at OCEC-sponsored workshops.
- Department chair and some members met, January 2014.
- Department members have monthly teleconferences at their own expense.

*Anticipated Projects and Conferences*

- Regional workshop to be scheduled for Diocese of Western PA; possibly other places as well, in particular Diocese of the West and Alaska.
- Departmental working retreat, Holy Transfiguration Monastery.
- OCEC teacher training workshops (various venues.)
- Commentary on the Book of Revelation, with icon illustrations to accompany the text, written by Fr. George Gray and others.
- Study questions for Fr. Thomas Hopko’s “History” section of his *Orthodox Faith* series.

The Department continues to:

- correspond with teachers and clergy
- offer church schools help in finding appropriate curriculum materials
- offer help in setting up and maintaining church school programs
- review and recommend various educational materials
- cooperate with other jurisdictions and with the Orthodox Christian Education Commission in presenting workshops and reviewing their curriculum materials
- act as a clearing house for materials used in parishes that would be helpful to others.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Chair  
Department of Christian Education,



Orthodox Church in America

## **OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA) JANUARY 15, 2014 SUMMARY REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2013 – JANUARY 2014)**

### **Members**

Donna Karabin – Chair, Archpriest Thomas Moore, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Nancy VanDyken, Diana Pasca, Arlene Kallaur – Resource Handbook Coordinator, and a number of ministry consultants  
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek, Bishop of Pittsburgh and Western PA - Liaison with the Holy Synod

### **Ministry Focus**

Parish Ministries, Charitable Outreach, Senior Life and Family Life

### **Highlight**

The department is most grateful for the invitations to the September 2013 Metropolitan Council Meeting and to the October 2013 Holy Synod Meeting. These were first-time opportunities for in-person presentations on CSHA ministries, discussion and the exchange of information. They served as positive steps in building relationships with diocesan hierarchs, clergy and lay leaders for mutual benefit in strengthening parish and charitable outreach ministries throughout the OCA.

Meeting with the Holy Synod was an occasion to invite nominations for new members and ministry consultants from the dioceses. We thank His Grace, Bishop Michael of NY-NJ for recommending Diana Pasca (Holy Cross – Medford, NJ) as a new department member and Matushka Natalie Stavrevsky (St. John the Baptist-Rochester, NY) as Eldercare Consultant. In our interest to build a network of diocesan ministry representatives, the invitation for nominations from other dioceses remains open.

### **Resource Handbook for Ministries**

New topics for Resource Handbook (RH) articles have been selected for development. Existing articles are being updated, refreshed and periodically featured on the OCA homepage and Facebook page. Members for the Resource Handbook Working Group are being recruited who will evaluate the applicability of current content to parish ministry needs. Further consultation will be requested with the OCA Web Team for statistics and analysis of RH on-line activity to help the Working Group better understand readers' interests. It is vitally important to make the Resource Handbook more visible and more available to our OCA faithful and to anyone searching for ministry resources.

To access the Resource Handbook, go to the OCA website homepage and select either "Work of the Church" or "About the OCA", select Departments, then Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid.

### **Postings on the OCA Website and Facebook page**

- [September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance](#) - Announcement encouraging participation of parishes, clergy and laity in charitable outreach and prayer
- [Loaves and Fishes](#) Ministry News-Atlanta – Food and services for the urban hungry and homeless
- [IOCC Sunday](#)-November – Urging financial support from parishes and the faithful for US and international humanitarian aid
- [OCA Stewards](#) – excerpt of CSHA statement: "We need to maintain our current ministries, but we also need to expand our ministries as new needs arise. A broad and generous response to the Stewards campaign would be one of the most productive ways to build up the Church."
- [Communal House Blessings](#) article – Blessings, hospitality and fellowship to build-up parish life
- [Church World Service CROP Walks](#) will be highlighted to draw attention to the Spring CROP Walks held nation-wide in local communities to raise awareness and funds for the hungry and homeless.

### **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training**

Our collaboration with the Department of Institutional Chaplaincies (IC) continues on Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training (CiA). At this time, CiA is not funded by the CSHA 2014 budget. We urge consideration of program support so that this inspired ministry may be initiated in parishes.

For those unfamiliar with Compassion in Action, it is a program where clergy and parish lay volunteers are trained and mentored by department representatives to care for someone in a critical life juncture. The focus is on a personal visit, an attentive Orthodox, caring presence for someone who is suffering in some way, either for our brothers and sisters in the parish, or to neighbors in the community.

Fr. Steven Voytovich, Director of IC, requests "interested persons to serve as mentors along with parishes interested in applying to field test the program".

### **Partnership with Service and Humanitarian Agencies**

CSHA is strengthening its relationships with agencies under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, including International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), FOCUS North America, and Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM). OCA has a long standing relationship with Church World Service (CWS). We strongly encourage financial support and participation in the various ministry programs of these agencies.

On January 5, 2014, our CSHA Chair met with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and Nick Chakos, Executive Director of FOCUS NA, along with Fr. John Vitko, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Washington DC, and other diocesan representatives to discuss development of a FOCUS Center in the Nation's Capitol. It was a productive and inspiring meeting with applications not only for Washington DC but for all dioceses. A great deal of development is needed to establish sustainable centers in this worthy ministry.

### **18<sup>th</sup> All American Council**

CSHA members are looking ahead to the July 2015 AAC with hopes for prominent visibility and participation of OCA Departments and Church Ministries in the council agenda. We are greatly encouraged about the plans to integrate a community service project into the schedule. The AAC is an opportunity for hierarchs, clergy and faithful to gain a greater sense of OCA's identity of faithful witness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ through the implementation of its department programs, and especially through growing service in Matthew 25 ministries.

**THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Report to the Holy Synod of Bishops  
January, 2014**

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces,

Most Reverend Masters, bless me.

Here, in point form, are the highlights of the Department's activity during the latter half of 2013. Please note that Item 5 consists of three policy recommendations for adoption by the Holy Synod of Bishops.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES 2013**

- 1. On-site presentations: "Clergy Sexual Misconduct: Professional Ethics, Healthy Boundaries and Appropriate Responses"**
  - 5 hours, fulfills the CCD requirement of 5 hours in Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics
  - Presented to: Archdiocese of Canada, Archdiocese of Washington, Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Diocese of the West, Romanian Episcopate.
  - Pending invitation to present to Bulgarian Diocese, June 2014.
  
- 2. Accreditation and Reporting: Link to online self-reporting form for clergy installed at <http://oca.org/about/departments/departments-of-continuing-education>.**
  - 256 self-reports have received for 2013.
  - Approximately 50 clergy have taken at least some Continuing Education but have not yet reported (mostly in the Romanian Episcopate).
  - Highest levels of participation in Canada, Washington, NY/NJ, West and Romanian.
  - Approximately 120 offerings accredited during 2013
  - Approximately 75 providers approved during 2013
  - Approximately 65 venues for CCD during 2013
  
- 3. Online Course Offerings:**
  - Site under construction at [education.oca.org](http://education.oca.org).
  - Development is somewhat behind proposed schedule, anticipated completion in February 2014
  - Online courses will enable clergy to pursue Continuing Clergy Development, who are unable to attend on-site sessions. Delayed development has placed many clergy "out of compliance," especially regarding the 5-hour Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics.

**4. Emergent Issues:**

- Clergy may be unable to complete annual requirements within a given 12 month period. Some “grace period” seems in order.
- Clergy who are retired, on leave, or pursuing full time study have asked whether they are subject of the annual 20-hour requirement.
- Some clergy receive outside training that approximates certain CCD offerings, and have asked whether such training may be substituted for CCD requirements.

**5. Policy recommendations for adoption by the Holy Synod of Bishops:**

- That Continuing Education taken during the period from January 1 through March 31 of any year, may be used for CCD credit in that year, or may be applied to the previous year.
- That clergy, who are retired, on leave, enrolled in full time study or are otherwise removed from active ministry may be exempted from CCD requirements at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop. However, such clergy may not serve in a capacity, such as supply, spiritual advisor or confessor, unless they meet the 5-hour requirement in Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics.
- That clergy may use outside training or academic work for CCD credit, except that the 5-hour requirement in Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics must be fulfilled annually by enrolling in sessions offered by the Department of Continuing Education.

Following, please find listings of the sessions, providers and venues by which Continuing Education was offered to the clergy of the Orthodox Church in America during 2013.

Kissing your right hands, I am

Your Servant in Christ,  
Archpriest Ian G. Pac-Urar  
Director

**CONTINUING CLERGY DEVELOPMENT  
SESSIONS ACCREDITED 2013**

"'Mercy within mercy within mercy': Thomas Merton on the mercy of God"  
"Ministry to the elderly" - Diocesan Clergy Conference  
"The Orthodox Priest and the Love of God"  
"The Orthodox Priest and (his) Confession"  
"Sexual Misconduct Policy"  
"Alms, Labor, and the 'Holy Poor': Early Monasticism between Syria and Egypt."  
2013 Annual Department of Christian Education Conference  
2013 Diocese of NY&NJ Clergy Conference  
2013 Parish Ministries Conference  
3rd Annual Parish Council Conference: "Parish Growth and Evangelization"  
Adobe Photoshop Elements  
Advanced NCD (Natural Church Development) Training - Phase 2  
Advancing Bioethics Education  
Archdiocese of Washington DC Clergy Retreat  
Building Vibrant Parishes  
Building Vibrant Parishes, Session Three  
Building Vibrant Parishes, Session Two  
Camp Logos 1 (2-Day Workshop on Logos Biblical Study Software)  
Care of the Elderly  
Church School and Sexual Misconduct  
Church School Conference for teacher and coordinators  
Clergy Conference, Episcopal Diocese of Newark NJ  
Clergy Continuing Education Symposium  
Clergy Sexual Misconduct  
CO Clergy Brotherhood Meeting with OCMC's Fr Martin Ritsi  
Conflict Resolution  
Constitutional Promises of Religious Liberty and Civil Rights in Employment  
Cross-Culturalization  
Deacon Practicum  
Deanery Meeting NY State Deanery - Pastoral care of the ill, elderly,  
Death Notification for a Traumatic Death  
Suicide Awareness and Prevention  
Diaconal Formation Class  
Dogmatics  
DSLR Photography And Videography  
Care in Disasters; Grief Following Trauma  
Encounter with Contemporary Culture and Morals  
Evangelization Conference, Sharing Orthodoxy  
Exorcism: A Current Perspective  
Exploration and Development of Ministry of Presence  
Family and Bereavement Support Team Training  
Family, Marriage, Love in Eastern Orthodox Perspective  
For Heaven's Sake, You Can Regulate Religious Uses, But...

Handling Sexual Assault Cases from Investigation to Trial  
Health Care Chaplaincy Winter Clinical Pastoral Care Symposium  
Healthy boundaries and relationships with the faithful  
Holiness, bad religion, demographic changes affecting the parish  
Homiletics  
Improving Care for Veterans Facing Illness and Death  
Keeping Faith in Mind - 6th Annual Workshop for Chaplains  
Mandated Reporter Training, Adult Protective Services  
Men Can Stop Intimate Partner Violence  
Merton's Reading of the Russian émigré theologians  
Ministering to the Elderly  
Mission Planting & Evangelization - Fr. David Rucker  
Motivational interview training  
New Evidence About the Shroud of Turin  
OCA Sexual Misconduct Policy  
Online Annual Ethics Training  
Orthodox College Fellowship and parents, parishes  
Orthodox Missions  
Palliative Care and P.A.C.T. Integration  
Pan-Orthodoxy in America  
Paradise and Utopia  
Parish Growth & Evangelization  
Parish pressures on the priest/family  
Pastoral Care Week Symposium  
Penn State and Beyond: Current Issues in Child Sex Abuse Litigation  
Pittsburgh Ecumenical Pastoral Conference  
Practice of Saying No--Nurturing Silence and Sabbath  
Preventing Embezzlement At Your Worship Center  
Prevention of Workplace Harassment/NO FEAR Act  
Reducing the Risk of Sexual Abuse in Your Parish  
Religion in the Workplace: Religious Accommodation Requirements under Title VII  
Religious Issues in the Supreme Court: The Affordable Care Act's Contraceptive Provision  
Rocky Mountain Deanery Retreat, The Love of God and Confession in the Life of a Priest  
Rocky Mountain Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood (RMOCB) -- Prison Ministry for the Priest and His Parish  
ROEA 2013 Clergy Conference-Retreat, February 11-13  
Saints without Borders  
Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house  
Searching for the Sacred  
Seminar by Archimandrite Irenei (titles below)  
Senior/Assisted Living & Memory Care (Alzheimer's): A Primer to Aid in Ministry for Families  
Sharing Orthodoxy in the New World: Conversations on Faith with Family and Friends  
Suicide Loss

Suicide Prevention  
The Exploration & Development of the Ministry of Presence  
The Fields are White for Harvest: Welcome to College Ministry.  
The Future of the Church and Pastoral Care  
The Glory of Christ Centered Marriage  
The Life of Father Arsenie Boca  
The Making of "Holy Russia"  
The Search to Belong Book Study  
The Synoptic Gospels  
Transforming Psychological States into Spiritual Ones: Some Practical Advice From the Fathers  
Volunteer Orientation, Sexual Misconduct  
Watch and Prayer Retreat  
What is Divinization/Theosis?  
When Church and State Collide: Defending Religious Freedom  
When the Healer is Wounded  
Working Effectively in Missions

**CONTINUING CLERGY DEVELOPMENT  
PROVIDERS 2013**

Archdiocese of Canada  
Archdiocese of Washington  
Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Diocese of the West  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America  
Dept. of Christian Education  
Department of Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid  
Department of Evangelization  
Dept. of Liturgical Music and Translation  
Dept. of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries  
NY State Deanery  
Rocky Mountain Deanery  
Colorado Clergy Brotherhood  
Metropolis of Denver  
OCMC  
Saint Tikhon's Seminary  
Saint Vladimir's Seminary  
The New Gračanica Monastery and the St Paisius Missionary School  
All Auxiliary Family Life Conference (Romanian Episcopate)

Alzheimer's Association, NYC Chapter and the HealthCare Chaplaincy  
American Law Institute/American Bar Association  
APS



Ecumenical Institute  
Episcopal Diocese of Newark NJ Lenten clergy retreat days, Feb. 19-21, 2013  
Erin Rogers--Volunteer Coordinator  
Fairfax County Chaplains Corp  
Florovsky Society Fr. John Strickland (CA)  
Pittsburg Pastoral Conference  
Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues  
Princeton Theological Seminary Prof. Peter Brown of Princeton University

Church Mutual Insurance  
Crisis Link -- a national (and local) hotline  
David Wetzler, President and CEO ChurchSmart, Inc  
Department of the Army  
Henry's School of Imaging  
International Municipal Lawyers Association  
Le Bleu Chateau - Assisted Living Home & Memory Care - Patricia Aguilar, Sr. Director  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Public Safety Chaplains Subcommittee  
NY chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society  
Oberlin College and OCF, presented by VRev Dr Michael Oleksa  
Safe Schools Training  
Suburban Hospital Pastoral Care Department, Rev. Barbara McKensie, Director  
The Independence Center  
United States Army Intelligence and Security Command  
V.A. Learning University/Talent Management System (VALU/TMS)  
Veteran's Healthcare Network  
Veterans Integrated Systems Network (VISN) 3 Palliative Care Consultation Teams and Hospice Interdisciplinary Teams  
Wayne Oates Center for Ethics, Spirituality, and Pastoral Care. West LegalEdCenter

Most Rev. Bishop Alexander  
Most Rev. Bishop Michael  
Andrew Boyd, National Youth Director of the Orthodox Church in America  
Rev John Diamantis  
Joseph Kormos, Ministry Leader  
Archimandrite Athanasys  
Archimandrite Irenei (Steenberg)  
V. Rev. Constantine Nasr  
Fr. Alexy Karlgut  
Matushka Natalie Stravrevsky  
Michael Herzak, CRMCS/CIC  
Dr Christopher Veniamin  
Dr David Ford  
Dr. Al Rossi  
Fr. Nicholas Solak  
Fr Stephen Powley

Rev. George Handzo, BCC, CSSBB  
Rev. Jill M. Bowden, BCC, MDiv, MPA  
Rev. Dr. Silviu Bunta  
Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza  
Fr. Martin Ritsi  
Penny Poulos  
Igumen Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot  
Dr. David Ford  
Archpriest John Kowalczyk,  
Kevin Ellers, D Min.  
Professor David Fagerberg of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Notre Dame  
Rev. Dr. Anne Sims  
Fr. James Barkett  
Dr. Stephen Muse  
V Rev Ian Pac-Urar  
V Rev John Kowalczyk

**CONTINUING CLERGY DEVELOPMENT  
VENUES 2013**

Acacia Hospice, Burlington, NJ  
Adult Protective Services, Santa Rosa, CA  
Alexandria VA  
Alzheimer's Association, NYC Chapter New York, NY  
Ancaster, Ontario  
Ancient Faith Radio  
Archdiocese of Canada Assembly, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada  
Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., St. Matthew Orthodox Church, Columbia, MD  
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Denver, Colorado  
Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ  
Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Denver  
Assumption Orthodox Church, Clifton, NJ  
Burbank, CA  
Church of the Annunciation, Milwaukie, OR  
Church of the Assumption, Clifton, NJ  
ChurchSmart, St. Charles, IL  
Corpus Christi Church, NYC  
E-Seminar  
St Andrew Church, Dix Hills, New York  
Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax, VA  
Fall 2013 Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Franciscan Retreat Center, Scottsdale, Arizona  
Ft. Belvior VA  
Ft. Myer, Arlington, VA  
Holy Cross Monastery, West Park NY

Holy Protection of the Virgin Orthodox Church, Santa Rosa, CA  
Holy Resurrection Church, Tacoma Washington  
Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ  
Holy Theophany, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
WestGate Church, San Jose, CA  
Interactive Webinar online  
James J Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx NY  
Loyola-Marymount University, LA  
Marygrove College, Detroit, MI  
Marymount College Arlington, VA  
Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn, NY  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Office, Washington D.C.  
New Gracanica Serbian Monastery, Third Lake, IL  
Oakville, Ontario  
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
Online Program with Study Materials  
Online training for Coos Bay school district.  
Online, interactive webinar  
Our Lady of Kazan Orthodox Church Sea Cliff, NY  
Pittsburgh PA  
Pittsburgh Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton, NJ  
Princeton University  
Saint Nicholas' Church, Cohoes NY  
Saint Tikhon's Monastery  
Saint Tikhon's Seminary  
Saints Peter & Paul Church, Syracuse NY  
Sophia Institute, Union Theol. Seminary, NYC  
SS. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY  
St. Basil's Church Watervliet, NY  
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, Pueblo, CO  
Strasbourg, France  
Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD 20814  
Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church VA  
Toronto, Ontario  
University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN  
University of St Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary)  
Vatra Romaneasca, Grass Lake MI  
Wayne Oates Institute for Ethics, Spirituality, and Pastoral Care  
Wayne, NJ  
WestEd Legal Center

## **Department of Evangelization**

Report to the Holy Synod  
And to the Metropolitan Council  
Priest John Parker, Chair  
January 2014

Since reporting to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council in September/October, here is a summary report of my activities as the Chair of the Department of Evangelization:

**Progress on Website:** [www.goodnews.oca.org](http://www.goodnews.oca.org) (not functional at that address yet).  
(Ongoing)

The draft can be found here: <http://ocacharleston.org/test/>

This website will be the hub for all Evangelism Resources, including a page for Spanish Language Ministry, and the collection of resources compiled (and delivered) by Fr John Reeves and Dn Alex Cadman according to the Seattle AAC.

### **Ongoing dialogue with Rick Warrant/Saddleback Church**

(Current and ongoing)

Rick Warren, in my podcast with him, indicated that Saddleback could learn about the “Mystery/ies of the Faith” from us Orthodox, and suggested a willingness for my return to teach them. Ongoing e-communication for a return to Saddleback possibly this Spring.

### **Conversation with Anglican Church in North America**

(Current and Ongoing)

Exploring a Pilgrimage to Russia with the ACNA delegation, with the possible topic “In the Footsteps of St Tikhon”, possibly in conjunction with the upcoming retirement of the ACNA’s first primate, the Most Rev. Robert Duncan.

### **Extended Phone Conversation with Fr John Reeves and Fr Alex Cadman**

(October 2013)

on Church Growth/Health Boot Camp//ABCs of Natural Church Development

### **Speaker, Diocese of New England Diocesan Assembly, Bridgeport, CT**

(October 2013)

### **Patronal Feast Visit/Preaching**

(November 2013)

Fr Timothy Hojnicky, as Planting Grant Mentor Priest, visited Holy Archangels Mission in Annapolis, MD, as reported on [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org). Father Timothy, preached and gave a talk at the Patronal Feast Dinner.

**OCMC Board Meeting**

(November 2014, St Augustine, FL)

Biannual Board meeting. Included discussion about our new partnership with OCMC for our second-annual Short Term Missions Team to our Diocese of Mexico, Village of San Esteban in early July 2014. This year, to be organized by Fr Theodore Pisarchuk, but recruiting/vetting through OCMC.

**Retreat Leader, Holy Cross Antiochian Church, Linthicum, MD**

(November 2013)

For their 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary: “Worship, Service, Mission”.

**Scheduling of 2014 reporting/media for the Mission Grant parishes**

(December 2013)

The Five Mission Planting Grants have been put on a schedule whereon each of the missions will report with photos and a narrative for publication on OCA.org. This kind of reporting has been sporadic in the past. It is my hope that the calendar will help assure regular documentation of the work of these missions, and allow a regular spotlight so the wider church can see their missions blossom.

**Phone Conference with Metropolitan Tikhon for planning/vision**

(December 2013)

Discussed possibility of a second, follow-up Summit on Evangelization. Discussed matters related to Rick Warren. Tentatively Scheduled “Focus Group on Evangelization” meeting in Syosset prior to Spring 2014 Metropolitan Council Meeting.

**“Alpha”-type course development?**

(January 2014)

Charles Ajalat, philanthropist and lay-leader from the AOCA, has invited me to participate in developing and “Alpha-type” Outreach Course which would be based on the Anglican “Alpha” program and the Orthodox “Way”, by Metropolitan Kallistos. The Alpha Course is a 15-week program for seekers who gather once/week for instruction and a conversation/questions over a meal. Possible visit to California for meeting with Antiochian Dept of Evangelization in Feb/March 2014.

**Guest Interview: Ancient Faith Today with Kevin Allen**

(January 26, 2014, 8pm)

Live Internet Radio Interview/Call-in Show—topic Evangelization in North America

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# Spring 2014 Department Report

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## [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.

### 2. DEPARTMENT MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

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

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

Website: [www.orthinc.org](http://www.orthinc.org)

### 3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2013 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, roughly \$16,000 expenses
- 2013 Budget Actual: \$6,000 stipend, roughly \$4,350 expenses (most expenses come near the end of the year for this department and some not reflected by Dec. 20 close). 2014 Budget submitted.

### 4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- A number of already certified chaplains need updated endorsements for five-year reviews.
- In December Chaplain Danny Partin was commissioned by Bishop Mark visiting St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, in Kentucky, where Fr. Justin Patterson is pastor.
- Fr. Steven transitioned from Director of CPE at Episcopal Health Services to Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary. He also Chaired the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB) meeting in Washington, D.C. earlier in January. This concludes his two-year term as AREB Chair.
- In October 2012, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese adopted formal endorsement for institutional chaplaincy. In 2013 they have endorsed their first candidate and will now be applying for COMISS membership as the OCA did in 2005. It is wonderful to have our sister church on board in terms of endorsement! Their representative was present for the AREB meeting earlier this month.
- *Spirituality and Healthcare Encyclopedia*, has been published. Fr. Steven drafted the chapter representing the Orthodox Faith. <http://www.radcliffehealth.com/shop/essential-guide-religious-traditions-and-spirituality-health-care-providers>
- The OCA's application to formally join the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education as a member was approved in May of 2013. An article was posted on OCA website to share this news.
- 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.
  - Our presentation at Parish Ministries workshop sought volunteers to serve as facilitators.

#### Future Developments:

- We hope to continue featuring a number of our institutional chaplains in their ministry contexts on our [www.orthinc.org](http://www.orthinc.org) website during the coming year, as well as opportunities for continued exchange
- With the advent of now two jurisdictions having similar endorsement processes, we need to continue dialogue toward implementation of uniform approach to institutional chaplaincy endorsement.
- Support the Strategic Plan:
  - Our chaplains can assist with clergy continuing education; seminarian training. Fr. Steven began a dialogue with Fr. Ian, now in charge of continuing education about the ongoing continuing education chaplains are already undertaking (at least 50 hours each year). We hope to come to some kind of understanding so that chaplains are not having to duplicate continuing education in chaplaincy and church settings.
  - CiA Program will assist parishes in engaging in ministry development
  - Represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena
- I am looking forward to a scheduled meeting, as department director, with the Metropolitan Council in February.

#### **5. COMMENTS**

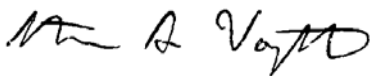
This past year saw the conclusion of my roles as Chair of AREB and COMISS Leadership, I attended several credentialing body meetings to represent endorsers: ACPE in May, and COMISS planning meeting in July. My leadership in AREB will conclude in January after their annual meeting. I assisted this developing organization to chart a pathway ahead that will preserve the most significant relational round table to explore best practices with only necessary supporting structure.

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. We celebrated 10 years of formal endorsement in 2013, and can now say that our sister jurisdictions have taken notice of this work!

As the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops itself is going through growing pains, it will be challenging to discern where we as OCA should stand in relation to institutional chaplaincy and endorsement. At the least, the program in place is working and assisting our clergy and faithful to serve in institutional chaplaincy roles.

Lastly, as I have begun my duties as Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary in August of 2013, we will be working toward developing a new director to take over this department. I am grateful to continue to offer leadership in the meanwhile.

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 – Spring 2014**

**A. Music Settings for Liturgical Services**

Since the last report (September 12, 2013) 56 pages of music for the feasts of Theophany and the pre-Lenten Sundays have posted on the website. We are now ready to begin posting the music for the Kanons for Resurrection Matins and the Resurrection stichera on the Praises at Matins. When the completed text for the Akathist to the American Saints is reviewed and approved by the Holy Synod, the music and the full service will be posted on the website for free downloading. The Akathist to St Herman will also be posted with full text and music. In addition the music for the Vigil to St Herman (Glorification, August 9) is in preparation and will be posted and available for downloading by summer, 2014.

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.

**B. Texts for Liturgical Services**

In 2013 a total of 185 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 2014. These include services for all feasts and saints that call for a Vigil in the “official” Liturgical Calendar (published by St Tikhon’s Seminary Press) in addition to the services of the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent, Sundays Vespers during Lent, and the services of Holy Week. The services are put together by the Chairman, rubric outlines are provided by Archimandrite Juvenaly and the texts are proofread by Dr. Vladimir Morosan.

**C. Audio Files for Teaching Liturgical Music**

Since the last report, the Department has made available on the website audio files (MP3) for Tones 5-8 in both Obikhod and Kievan chant arrangements for the “Tutorial for 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. The recording for the tutorial were done by singers of St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN, under the direction of Deacon Gregory Ealy.

**D. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones**



All eight tones of 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, are now available on the website for free download. 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. alto, tenor, and bass. Part I of the Tutorial was written by David Drillock and Deacon Gregory Ealy; Dr Vladimir Morosan did the editing and provided musical assistance.

Work is now underway on Part II of this tutorial, which will include the tones for the chanting of the Prokeimena.

### **E. On-line Course in Choral Conducting**

In Fall and Winter, 2012-13, the on-line course for Beginning Choir Directors was offered by the Department to interested and beginning choir directors in the Diocese of New York-New Jersey. Bishop Michael and the Diocese’s Commission on Liturgical Music promoted the on-line course and assisted in the recruiting of students. Seven of the eight students (not all were from the Diocese of New York-New Jersey) who were enrolled in the class completed all twelve sessions successfully.

Based on course evaluations submitted by the participants, minor adjustments were made to the course and the Department offered the course again, beginning October 1, 2013. A total of 19 students from all areas of the United States and Canada enrolled for the course. In view of the late beginning, the course will conclude on January 31. It is expected that 15 of the 19 students will successfully complete the course.

The first part of the course places special emphasis on the relationship between text and music, accented and non-accented syllables; exercises are focused on learning the beat patterns. The second half of the course concentrated 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 consisted of video and textual teaching demonstrations. Weekly each student meets on-line via *skype video system* with the teacher of the course, Prof David Drillock, who also provides written weekly evaluations to the participants.

Music examples were sung by choir members of St Paul Orthodox Church, Dayton, Ohio. Video recording for the sessions was done by Dr Mark Pearson, Instructional Technologist and Designer at Earlham College. Dr Pearson designed the online course format and provided technical support and program assistance.

### **F. Music for the Church School**

As reported previously, 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. Two segments (Cosmas of Maium and Kassiane) have been written by Dr. Elizabeth Theokritoff, and reviewed by the Department of Christian Education which is also preparing lesson plans. Examples of hymns, set to music and sung by a church choir, are being prepared by the Department of Music.

Respectively submitted,

*David Drillock, Chairperson*  
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations  
Orthodox Church in America  
January 16, 2014

Report of the Pastoral Life Department  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2014

Inactive

## **Youth and Young Adults Department Report Spring 2014 Metropolitan Council Meeting Andrew Boyd**

The work of our Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries continues to slowly grow through the work of our many dedicated volunteers. We await more concrete direction from The Holy Synod of Bishops and the Metropolitan Council as to the scope of our work, and the future of our national youth ministry.

### **All-American Council**

We are working hard to plan a comprehensive youth program for the next All-American Council. Priest Benjamin Tucci is leading the work together with many volunteers and in collaboration with The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). We are still looking for volunteers to help with planning, teaching, and supervision.

### **Social Media**

Our social media presence continues to grow under the guidance of Priest Christopher Rowe and his team. More details can be found in the Strategic Plan report to the Metropolitan Council.

### **OCF/Episcopal Assembly**

We continue to work closely with the Orthodox Christian Fellowship to serve the needs of our college students. We are also able to share the wonderful resources of our Church with the greater Orthodox community through OCF. Recently, the Romanian Episcopate hosted a student leadership retreat, and OCA lay and clergy leaders continue to support OCF programs as volunteer leaders. Deacon Alexander Cadman continues to represent us on the OCF Board of Directors, and the work of the organization continues to grow and flourish under the leadership of His Grace, Bishop Gregory (Carpatho-Russian Archdiocese) and Mrs. Jennifer Nahas, Executive Director.

The work of the Youth Committee of the Episcopal Assembly continues. We have been directed to work towards regional and national pan-orthodox youth events in the coming year. Priest Christopher Rowe will represent us at the upcoming meeting of the Youth Committee and its consultants at the end of January.

### **Wonder**

Our blog continues under the guidance of myself and Deacon Jason Ketz. Much needed technological and design upgrades are coming soon to the site. We are thankful to the many volunteer authors and contributors who continue to provide us with superlative content.

## **Pilgrimages**

We are planning to revitalize the tradition of youth and young adult pilgrimages this year beginning with a service trip to Alaska at the end of June. These trips will be self-funded and targeted to young adults 18-30. They will serve to offer opportunities to know our roots and history better, while offering service back to the Church.

## **Peter the Aleut Grant Program**

Our department continues to award small grants to youth attending approved retreats, conferences, and programs at our monasteries and seminaries. Grants are also available for clergy and lay people for continuing education in youth ministry. We have awarded grants for young people to visit seminaries, study iconography, work on service trips, and learn more about parish ministries. It is our hope to continue and expand this program.

## **Youtube Challenge**

We completed our second annual "Youtube Challenge" this past fall where youth and young adult from across our Church are tasked to respond with a creative youtube video to the question "What is the Gospel". The winner, a young adult from St. Mary Magdalene Church in Manhattan then attended and presented at the National Festival of Young Preachers in Indianapolis, IN along with department staff. Many thanks to our volunteer judges and all those who submitted videos.

## **Spring 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.

### **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 was conducted 13 – 16 January 2014. Father Ted Boback and Fr Joseph Gallick attended the three meetings. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon arrived Wednesday and attended the remaining sessions of all three meetings also. This was the second year that Metropolitan Tikhon was able to attend and to participate with the endorser and military and VA Chaplaincies Conference; it was appreciated and was well received by all who attended in that they were able to engage in conversation with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Endorser of the OCA Military and VA Chaplains and Hierarchy of the Orthodox Church in America. Pictures will be posted on the OCA website.

This year the NCMAF had as its theme “Moving Forward: Practicing Spiritual Care – Caring for Others and Caring for the Caregivers”. The days included for NCMAF: a kick off with an evening viewing of the acclaimed documentary “High Ground, 11 Wounded Warriors Climbing back from War”. The film’s producer Doh Hahn was present. He is the son of a Lutheran Minister and the twice Gold Globe Awards winner for his Beauty and the Beast and Lion King movies. A discussion with Michael Brown and Matt Murray – Director and Associate Producer of the film and a chaplain panel which included Spiritual Care to others as IO see it and practice it.; A table top discussion on what might spiritual care look like for military members like those in High Ground; Chaplain (Colonel) Ken Stice, USA made a presentation on Care to Caregivers. And the NCMAF Executive Committee did a presentation on The Way Forward. This completed the first day of presentations.

The Second day began with devotion by Frank Clawson. Daniel Blomberg Legal Counsel of Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and K. Hollyn Hollman General Counsel of the Baptist Joint for Religious Liberty spoke on the Chaplaincy and the Constitution. Dr Robert Tuttle, Research Professor of Law and Religion at George Washington University was not able to be present this year. The Luncheon speaker was Dr Ed Tick: Soldiers Hart, Founding Director and author of War of the Soul and other. The afternoon session included a presentation by the National VA Chaplain Center Director, Chaplain Pollitt, Jon Batten joined Chaplain Pollitt from their office. It was announced that Chaplain Hugh Maddry who had served as a past National VA Chaplain died this past week. The day concluded with presentations from the three Chief of Chaplains. Business sessions of the NCMAF and ECVAC were also conducted during the afternoons.

The Armed Forces Chaplains Board hosted the final day of events with further presentations by the three branch chief of chaplains: from the Navy - Rear Admiral Mark Tidd, CHC, USN; from the Army - CH (Major General) Donald Rutherford; and from the Air Force - Ch, Major General, Howard Stendahl.. Afterwards there was a presentation by the personnel directors: Ch, Colonel Mark Barnes, “USAF; CH (Colonel) Bryan Walker, USA and CAPTAIN Jack Lea, CHC, USN. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was able to meet with the Chiefs and other staff personnel during the day.

A Panel discussion with Mr Herbert, principal director military personnel policy and the three chiefs of chaplains was conducted. The Chief of Chaplains Personnel Directors to include: Chaplain, Colonel, Jerry Lewis, USAF; Chaplain (Colonel) Bryan Walker, USA and CAPTAIN, Jack Lea, CHC, USN made presentations. Chaplain Jerry Pitts, AFCEB made a presentation – reporting on various issues of 2013. It was a great opportunity for Metropolitan Tikhon and the office of OCA Military and VA Chaplaincies We thank him for including this important aspect of his office as Metropolitan and Endorser in his calendar and for his active participation.

The Office of Chaplaincies remains involved with various aspects of the chaplaincies: A briefing by Fr. Theodore Boback Director and Fr Joseph Gallick Deputy Director of the Office of the Military and VA Chaplaincies was conducted with Metropolitan Tikhon recently. The office of the Chaplaincies communicates with the Office of the Chancellor and the office of the secretary as needed and as required.

Discussion and briefing were presented to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon this past year. We also maintain communication with Archbishop Nikon who serves on the Commission of Chaplaincies with the Episcopal Assembly of Bishops.

### **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.

Fr George Rusty Hill and Fr Paul Rivers returned from deployment from the Middle East with their units this past year and Fr Eugene Wozniak is deployed as well as Fr Peter Dubinin has received orders for active duty and will serve in Kuwait.

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.*

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Reserve Component</b>
Air Force	3 (3)	1 (1)
Army	6 (3)	4 (1)
Navy	3 (6)	1 (0)
Subtotals	12 (12)	6 (2)
Totals	24	8

Projections: There will be two losses on the active duty side this fiscal year.

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## **ACTIVE DUTY FORCES**

50% of all Orthodox Chaplains on active duty are Orthodox Church in America

## **RESERVE COMPONENT**

75% of all Orthodox Chaplains in the Reserve Component are Orthodox Church in America

## **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 USAF Langley AFB, Virginia

Father Eugene Lahue, Chaplain, Major, Captain, USAF – Keesler Air Force Base

Father Thaddeus Werner, Chaplain, Captain, USAF – Lackland AFB, Texas

### **United States Army**

Father Peter A. Baktis, Chaplain (COL) USA Fort Belvoir, VA

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USA Kuwait

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ) USA Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Father Sean Levine, Chaplain (CPT), USA, Fort Bliss, Texas

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 Hawaii Fr Jerome is schedule to retire in November 2014..

Father Stephen Duesenberry LCDR CHC USN Miramar - San Diego, CA

Father Eugene Wozniak LCDR CHC USN North Carolina currently serving in the Middle East on deployment

### **Reserve Component**

### **United States Air Force**

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

### **United States Army**

Father Ian Burgess, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain Captain USAFR

Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Sizemore Chaplain (CPT) USAR

### **United State Navy**

LTJG Herman Kincaid, 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 serves in a full time position at the Miami VAMC. We are grateful for their ministry.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as PTSD, 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

## **ENDORISING CONFERENCES**

- 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 been relected at the recent meeting in Virginia. He in the past served as chair of the group.

In conclusion, thanks to all who continue to support 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 especially 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 ask that you continue to remember our chaplains and family members in your prayers.