



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Spring 2016

Committees/Departments Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 16 to February 18, 2016
Committees/Departments Reports
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OCA Charity Committee Report
Spring 2016 Metropolitan Council meeting

Committee members: His Eminence Melchizedek, Episcopal liaison, Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, Melanie Ringa, treasurer, Archpriests John Dunlop, Thomas Moore, Antonio Perdomo, Alexander Kuchta, chair, Maureen Jury, Lisa Mikhalevsky.

Fund Ending Balance August 31, 2014	\$3,143.32
Donations Received 9/1/14 - 1/12/16	\$2,034.44
Memorial Sloan Kettering - medical bill payment 12/16/2015	\$(2,822.61)
Subtotal Balance 1/12/16	\$2,355.15
2016 Transfer from Operating Budget	\$5,000.00
Ending Balance - January 12, 2016	\$7,355.15

We are reporting activity of the Committee beginning September 1, 2014. The fund balance of \$3143.32 as augmented by unsolicited contributions received from September 1, 2014 through January 12, 2016. Additionally, we requested \$5000.00 to meet any charitable requests. We had one request from a layperson in 2015 for help with a medical bill, which was paid on December 16, 2015.

There are three basic types of disbursements the OCA Charity Committee has dealt with, each with its own set of procedures. If the committee agrees a given request is worthy and meets criteria, the disbursement occurs in this manner:

- 1. Private Requests:** Usually for clergy whose parish does not provide sufficient medical insurance coverage. The individual must document that they have first of all requested assistance from the parish, and from the diocesan hierarch. In most cases, the committee should request that the request include invoices for unpaid expenses. CC policy is that cash is not paid to those requesting aid. If the committee gives the request (or parts of it) a ‘thumbs up,’ the chair then sends the bills to be paid to Melanie and requests that she issue payment from the Charity Fund.
- 2. Public Requests:** (Tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, etc.) The Committee makes a determination, often based on a request from the Chancery or someone “local” to the disaster. This is based first of all on available funds. At this time, any funds we disburse are sent directly to IOCC, or perhaps FOCUS, or one of several other disaster relief organizations. Chair makes final arrangements with Melanie.
- 3. Grants:** These have been project-based proposals. The proposal is web based and is thus typically submitted to the Chancery, then forwarded to the Charity Committee chair. The committee may ask further questions, may ask the grant writer to modify the proposal, and may select portions of the proposal to approve and others to deny. Chair makes final arrangements with Melanie.

The requirement that CC members have specialized training in administering funds for a 501 (c) 3 NPO was relaxed in Fall of 2015 to permit others without training to serve on the committee. The CC will continue to observe all guide lines established by members of the CC, that were subsequently ratified by the MC and Holy Synod at the Oct 2007 meeting.

The Charity Committee still needs to meet to compose text for a web page on OCA.org for purposes of informing the Church of its activities and promotion of the work of OCA Charities. We will also discuss and decide if we want to include information on that page for purposes of actively soliciting gifts for charitable use.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta, chair

Report of the Ethics Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring, 2016

There are no items to report.

Report of the Financial Development Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring, 2016

See Treasurer's Report

Report of the Financial/Investment Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring, 2016

See Treasurer's Report

Report of the Human Resources Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring, 2016

Verbal Report.

**Internal Governance Committee
Report to the Metropolitan Council
Spring Session, 2016
Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chairman**

1. The Internal Governance Committee solicited proposals from four firms for the External Auditors.

- (1) CapinCrouse LLP (NYC) - current auditor and successor to Lambrides
- (2) D'Arcangelo & Co, LLP (Rye Brook, NY) - currently audits St. Vladimir's Seminary
- (3) Anchin, Block & Anchin, LLP (NYC)
- (4) SA Koenig & Associates, PC (Syosset)

One firm, Anchin, Block & Anchin, declined to submit a proposal. The other three proposals were discussed on a conference call by the committee on February 8.

The proposals were generally equal, except for price.

CapinCrouse	\$28,000
D'Arcangelo	\$18,775
SA Koenig	\$28,000-\$32,000

D'Arcangelo's bid reflects a 25% discount, likely due to the non-profit religious institution status. They offer similar rates to St. Vladimir's seminary.

Ms. Melanie Ringa and Fr. Chad Hatfield both offered positive reflections on the efficiency and timeliness with which D'Arcangelo performed their services at St. Vladimir's. CapinCrouse, the successor to Lambrides, was also lauded for their work.

Not much was known about SA Koenig, other than their location. They seemed a small office, with only one location, and would not be in a position to offer a breadth of experience to the OCA.

Given the relative comparability of the other two firms, the cost, and a benefit of having fresh "eyes" for the audit, the Committee consensus was to recommend to the Metropolitan Council to award the audit of the OCA to D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP, of Rye Brook, New York, and would make a motion to that effect.

2. The Internal Governance Committee also examined and edited the Metropolitan Council Handbook and now submits it for review and approval.
3. The Internal Governance Committee sent out requests for new members of the Internal Audit Committee as mandated by Article V, Section 9 of the Statute of the OCA. An electronic vote was conducted on December 14, 2015 and the results were unanimous in favor of appointing John Skrobot and Subdeacon Dimitri Pletz as Internal Auditors. The Metropolitan Council still needs to appoint one more member and are looking for recommendations.

Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee and General Counsel to the OCA

Winter Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America
February 16-18, 2016

Introduction

The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee was created by Resolution of the Metropolitan Council, and blessed by the Holy Synod, at the Spring 2008 Metropolitan Council meeting.¹ That Resolution, which is set forth both in the meeting minutes and in the Metropolitan Council Member Handbook, provides as follows:

“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 in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and 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.”

¹ 10.4. MOTION – G. Nescott / Fr. M. Searfoorce: Be it resolved, that a Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members is hereby established. Such committee 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 in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and 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, and Be it further resolved, that the Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or e-mail, or such other means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5. MOTION – Fr. M Sherman / W. Peters: That Mr. Gregory Nescott be appointed the Chair of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is always the goal of the Legal Committee to use its semi-annual reporting opportunities to ensure that each member of the Metropolitan Council is well-informed regarding matters of current legal interest or concern to the Orthodox Church in America, insofar as these matters reasonably relate to the function and role of the Metropolitan Council in the overall governance of the Church, as that role is defined in the Statute of the OCA.

The OCA Statute

Article V, Section 7 of the Revised Statute reads in pertinent part,

“The following matters are within the competence of the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council shall:

- a. Implement the decisions of the All-American Council and continue the work of the All-American Council between sessions in the areas of its competence;
- b. Assist the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in implementing decisions within its competence; ...
- k. Initiate, prosecute, and defend all legal matters affecting the interests of the Church ... “

With those competencies in mind, and continuing to follow the mandate given to the Legal Committee in its enabling resolution, the following report presents the current state of various legal issues now confronting the OCA.

General Counsel Search Committee

Judge E.R. Lanier, former Chairman of the Legal Committee, was appointed by the Holy Synod as General Counsel for the Orthodox Church in America. His term became effective December 1 and he has agreed to serve for a period of two (2) years. A press release announcing the appointment was prepared and posted on the OCA website.

Moriak Litigation

In the case of *Moriak v. Mollard and Popp*, separate Motions to Dismiss, along with supporting briefs, were filed on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Nathaniel in the Circuit Court of Cook County, IL on November 13, 2015. In an order dated January 19, 2016, Judge Eileen O’Neill Burke of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Illinois County Department, Law Division, denied the defendants’ motions to dismiss Counts I-IV of Bishop Matthias’ complaint, further ordering that the defendants are to answer the plaintiff’s complaint no later than March 1, 2016. The case has been put on a status calendar before the court for March 2, 2016. Counsel representing the Metropolitan and Archbishop Nathaniel is now preparing an appeal from this order. The parties to this action continue to exchange views on the possible amicable resolution of this dispute.

Amicus Brief in Little Sisters of the Poor

With the consent of the Holy Synod, the Orthodox Church in America through its General Counsel has joined in an Amicus Brief in a matter now pending before the Supreme Court of the United States, *Zubik v. Sylvia Burwell*, known popularly as the “Little Sisters of the Poor” case. In a very summarized overview, this case involves a decision by the Federal Third Circuit Court of Appeals in which that court rendered a decision which required the Petitioners (among them, the Little Sisters of the Poor who operate a medical facility offering general medical services to the public) to take certain administrative actions with respect to a patient who had requested abortion services. The Sisters refused on grounds of conscience to do so.

In very broad terms, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act permits exceptions to the provision of abortion services to medical facilities who object to such procedures on religious grounds. The Sisters in this case requested and were granted an exception under the terms of the RFRA not to provide such services. The cost of such services are otherwise required under the Affordable Care Act and, where a medical facility seeks and obtains an exception to the services on religious grounds, the act in general terms requires that the objecting facility fill out an administrative form in order to secure insurance coverage for abortion-related procedures by third-party organizations. The Little Sisters in a particular case refused to fill out the required Obamacare form on the basis that such action on their part would make them complicit in the provision of abortion services to a patient by other medical facilities. For their refusal to perform this administrative act, a civil suit was filed to

compel them to do so. The essential legal issue which will go before the Supreme Court in 2016 is whether or not the completion of the required form places a substantial burden on the Little Sisters' religious beliefs and exercises within the terms of the RFRA.

Estate Bequests

General Counsel of the OCA and the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council are actively assisting the Church in facilitating the execution of testamentary bequests in three separate estate proceedings in which the OCA is a designated testamentary beneficiary.

Religious Expression Insurance Coverage

The Legal Committee and the GC consulted with GuideOne Insurance Company with respect to the development of an optional rider designed to provide limited insurance liability coverage for civil lawsuits arising out of certain expressions of religious principle. This new product is designed specifically to afford some protection from civil claims based upon alleged infringements of civil rights now recognized in federal law, in particular those rooted in the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Obergefell*.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Parks, Chair, Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council

E. R. Lanier, General Counsel to the Orthodox Church in America

Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America
Report to the Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council
January 2016

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, part-time webmaster John Pusey

New or Current Departmental Offerings

Activity Book #4: "Saints and the Animals That Served Them." This new downloadable book, like the preceding three in the series, has twelve saints' life stories. These are enhanced by color icons, b/w iconographic portraits to study or color, liturgical verses and biographical facts relating to the saints, maps of the saints' travels, activities, journal prompts and a glossary. Each saint in this book had a particular connection with, or closeness to, animals. The varied activities help teachers reach all students, with their different learning styles.

North American Saints Resources: For each saint, a life icon (large central icon surrounded by smaller life scenes) with explanation of the icon, plus a one-page narrative of saint's life. This is available on our website, and enables teachers to present the saints' lives in a variety of ways.

Index to Bulletin Inserts: More than 200 weekly bulletin inserts, produced on various topics over several years, can now be found by date and title and can be reused.

Retreat for Parishes or Groups: "Orthodox Surprises." This retreat includes studies of several old Testament figures, desert saints, and New Testament accounts. It shows how the Septuagint gives insight into many Biblical saints, and guides participants in small-group spiritual reflection and conversation.

Workshop for Church Schools: "Through the Years: Teaching a Single Concept at Various Age Levels." Shows teachers how a concept can be introduced in a child's early years, and then reinforced in following years by teaching it again in age-appropriate ways.

Department Website contains a wealth of resources for teachers and parents.

Work in Progress

Downloadable Lenten Activities for various age levels based on the life of Saint Benedict, whose feast day falls on the first day of Great Lent this year. Other seasonal activities will follow.

Vacation Church School program for the summer of 2017, based on the curriculum created by the Department for the All-American Council in 2015. This was a major project for that year, and will require considerable editing to be ready for use in parishes.

Discussion Questions for each of four upcoming books on the Orthodox Faith, which together comprise a revised edition of the series originally written by Father Thomas Hopko of blessed memory. The questions (with suggested answers and points for discussion) will be put online rather than in the books themselves.

Ongoing Work

Correspondence with pastors, teachers and other educators to make suggestions or answer questions about parish education programs (materials, classroom setup and management, etc.)

Review and recommendation of resources and curricula, both from Orthodox and non-Orthodox sources.

Production of supplemental materials for OCEC curriculum and other Orthodox curricula. The Department's mandate is to supplement, not create, curricular materials.

Co-operative Work

Annual meetings of OCEC (Orthodox Christian Education Commission), to which our Department is the OCA delegate.

"Orthodox Institute", the annual teacher conference to which our Department contributes a small amount of financial support, and in which Department members take part as instructors and participants. This is a cooperative effort with the Christian Education Departments of the Antiochian Archdiocese (the sponsor) and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

OCEC Teacher Training Workshops, which are coordinated by a Department member and in which other members have been trained to take part as instructors. They have done so several times.

Respectfully submitted,
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Chair
Department of Christian Education
Orthodox Church in America

**OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA)
SUMMARY REPORT (March 14, 2015 – January 26, 2016)**

Chair: Donna Karabin

Members: Archpriest Thomas Moore, Priest Timothy Yates, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Arlene Kallaur, Diana Pasca, Nancy VanDyken, and eight consultants

Diocesan Ministry Network: Diana Pasca (NY-NJ), Krystal Royer (Bulgarian) Skip Mersereau (WDC), Fr. Timothy Yates (DOS), Fr. David Lowell (West), Vera Proctor (Midwest)

Episcopal Liaison: His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and W. PA

Ministry Focus:

Parish Ministries, Matthew 25 Charitable Outreach, Senior Life, Family Life

[CSHA](#) promotes compassionate and charitable ministries in all levels of OCA life.

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2015

1) 18th All-American Council

We are grateful to have taken part in the memorable 18th All American Council. Coming together in Council blessed us with opportunities for in-person interactions with hierarchs, clergy and faithful in our:

- Workshops: "Expanding the Mission through Matthew 25 Ministries" (Arlene – Intro to Parish Ministry Resources, Diana – Parish In-Reach/Outreach Ministry, Fr. Timothy – Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training and Active Listening Exercise, Fr. Tom Alessandrone – Loaves and Fishes Ministry and Dr. Albert Rossi - Addictions)
- Exhibit Hall Display: Conversations with delegates, observers and guests and distribution of resource materials
- Plenary Session PP presentation and CSHA's call to service: "When did we see you, Lord?"

Analytics from Ryan Platte did show a rise in activity for our on line resources during and after the AAC.

We are very pleased that two CSHA members were elected to the Metropolitan Council, Fr. Thomas and Popadija Kitty. The department members' shared commitment to our mission and ministry and strong bonds of friendship were the foundation for our service to the faithful at the AAC.

2) "Resource Handbook" (RH) Name Change to "Parish Ministry Resources" (PMR)

- We had a successful transition to the new name with the assistance of the OCA Web Team.
- Positive steps were taken in implementation of recommendations from the RH Working Group (Fr. John Shimchick, Mat. Denise Jillions, Mat. Deborah Belonick and Ryan Platte).
- Relevant articles from the PMR files were submitted for News Features on the OCA website to coordinate with the Liturgical Calendar and current events.
- Six new PMR articles were published in 2015; Arlene Kallaur is the Coordinator:

[Personal Examination for Clergy and Church Workers](#) by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko

[Beyond Alcoholism: Other Addictions](#) by Albert S. Rossi, PhD (St. Vladimir's Seminary)

[Where is Your Jerusalem?](#) by John G. Demakis, M.D. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese)

[The In-reach-Outreach Committee at Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Medford, NJ](#) by Diana Pasca

[Parish to Parish: Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of the South](#) by Fr. William Mills

[Personhood and an Aging Mind and Body](#) by Peter Kavanaugh (OCAMPR)

3) **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training (CiA)**

Our years of collaboration with the Office of Institutional Chaplaincies and V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich have borne fruit:

- Over a period of months, we had a successful discernment, development and launch of the Compassion in Action Pilot Program at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Fenton, MI (Bulgarian Diocese) through the mentorship and training by CiA leaders, Nancy Van Dyken and Fr. Timothy Yates. Nancy arranged visits to St. Mary's to coincide with business meetings she had in Detroit with no request for CSHA/OCA reimbursement for the side trips. Fr. Timothy's travel was funded by the CSHA budget. Archpriest Paul Jannakos and Deacon Michael Schlaak supported their parish core group of lay volunteers in development of their unique CiA ministry. After networking in the local area, their CiA ministry was invited to be part of a Soup Kitchen and Warming Center operated by St. Michael Roman Catholic Church in Flint, MI. There they offer their time and compassionate presence in one-on-one visits with people who are suffering physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The Catholic group expressed their gratitude for St. Mary's CiA ministry that now serves as a complement to their food and shelter outreach.
- There is a promising new CiA site at St. John the Wonderworker Church in Atlanta, GA. CSHA was contacted by Fr. Chris Williamson and Sub-deacon Dennis Dunn who are reviewing the Development Kit website. Fr. Tom Alesandroni is rector and supports the initiative.

4) **Orthodox Living Will**

As part of its Family Life Ministry, CSHA has long been committed to providing resources for end-of-life care, a time when families need guidance in making faith-informed decisions. With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek, an Orthodox Living Will Task Force was appointed to develop a formal and legal Orthodox resource. Archpriest Thomas Moore was the Coordinator along with members, Fr. Paul Fetsko, Director of Ethics at Mercy Health Systems, Fort Smith, AR, Deacon Mark Barna, co-author of the book "A Christian Ending", Charleston, SC, and Nicholas Ressetar, Chief of Staff at Costopoulos, Foster and Fields, Harrisburg, PA. They developed two comprehensive legal documents consistent with the teachings of the Orthodox Faith which were presented to the Holy Synod of Bishops for approval in July 2015. Their archpastoral blessing was received in October and the documents were published on the OCA web site on November 13, 2015.

- [A Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know should one become disabled or incapacitated and unable to make decisions on one's own. It includes a Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directive for Health Care—Living Will.
- [Another Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know to arrange a burial and funeral—an Advance Directive for Funeral Care.

The CSHA department urges dioceses and parishes to post the documents on their websites and to encourage clergy and faithful *of all ages* to become familiar with them, to reflect and pray about personal desires for medical treatment options, end-of-life care, and their funeral and burial.

5) **Diocesan Ministry Network**

Six hierarchs and chancellors have responded to our requests and appointed a Diocesan Ministry Representative to serve as a liaison between their diocese and CSHA (Bulgarian, Midwest, NY/NJ,

South, Washington DC, West). Other dioceses are invited to consider candidates who can join the Network to share in communications on charitable outreach programs, parish development and family life ministries. Send names or requests for information to csa@oca.org.

6) **Facebook - "[OCA Parish Ministry](#)"**

CSHA has an active Facebook page under the name OCA Parish Ministry. Regular features include CSHA news plus promos for IOCC, FOCUS North America and OCMC. Timely PMR articles and quotes from Church Fathers related to Matthew 25 ministries are posted, all with icons, photos and graphics. We are growing in numbers of people reached with statistics showing an international and ecumenical scope. As pleasing as that is, we are eager to reach OCA faithful. We invite OCA bishops and the clergy and laity of the Metropolitan Council to visit our page and share our ministry news with others in their communities.

7) **Church World Service (CWS)**

The CWS Annual meeting was convened in Arlington, VA in April and was attended by Arlene Kallaur, CSHA member and official OCA Representative to CWS. Also attending were Fr. John Vitko, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, and Donna Karabin, CSHA Chair. The large gathering provided opportunities for Pan-Orthodox and Ecumenical discussions.

The department continues to promote CWS/IOCC programs, e.g. CROP Hunger Walks & Gift of the Heart Kits. The annual OCA donation to CWS comes from our budget.

The Four Pillars

In his All-American Council Address, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon identified Four Pillars for expanding the OCA mission in the next triennium: Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Missions and Evangelism, and External Relations. The department members have discussed the pillars and some have discussed them with His Beatitude. There is the insight that the components, work and resources of the Christian Service Department are important factors in strengthening and sustaining the Four Pillars into the future. As planning goes forward on administrative reorganization, we support CSHA's inclusion in the redesigned structure of the Church and will assist in defining the most efficient and effective ministry model.

**The Orthodox Church in America
The Department of Continuing Education**

Winter, 2016

Here follows a brief description of the activity of the Department of Continuing Education.

Continuing Clergy Development (CCD)

In 2015 the Department of Continuing Education presented the third course in its Continuing Clergy Development series. A five-hour workshop entitled, *The First and Finest: Orthodox Christian Stewardship as Sacred Offering*. This year's presenter was Father Robert Holet, of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States. Live, on site presentations were made to clergy conferences in the Diocese of New York New Jersey, the Archdiocese of Washington DC, and the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

This course fulfills the annual, five-hour continuing education requirement in Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics for OCA clergy.

Resource Development

Using the offices of the Department of Continuing Education together with the Committee for Pastoral Practice of the Assembly Of Bishops Of United States, the Director convened a conference of bishops, clergy and lay practitioners from the Orthodox Church in America, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Antiochian Archdiocese, to discuss the issues surrounding perinatal loss and infant death. Participants from the OCA were: Archbishop Benjamin, Archbishop Mark, Fr. Ian Pac-Urar, Mat. Elizabeth Lien, Mat. Anna Crawford and Mat. Jenny Schroedel.

Conference worked for two days, identifying and discussing the various issues and problems surrounding the death of an infant, whether after birth or in the womb. Of particular concern were the pastoral care of the parents and family, the care and attention to the infant's body, and the provision of accurate information. The resulting document is a booklet entitled, *Perinatal Loss and Infant Death: A Resource for Orthodox Christian Pastors*.

The booklet was presented to the Committee for Pastoral Practice in June, and to the annual conference of Orthodox Christian Association for Medicine, Psychology and Religion in November, 2015. The text is presently undergoing review and editing.

The draft version may be viewed at: <http://polycarphouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Perinatal-and-Infant-Loss-A-Resource-for-Orthodox-Christian-Pastors-rev-12-31-15.pdf>

Online Program

The Department has established a platform for online continuing education in collaboration with Polycarp House, an online “virtual house of studies.” Clergy may enroll in the Department’s five-hour, required course in Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics each year. Participation and completion are recorded automatically, and the \$150 fee may be paid online. Funds are deposited automatically and directly into the OCA’s PayPal account, and are managed by the OCA Treasurer. As provided in the original description of the Department, all such funds are restricted for Department use.

The program will be rolled out by email notification to clergy. The Department plans a stepped rollout of online education, beginning after the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops. The program will be rolled out to each diocese individually, with the blessing of the Diocesan Bishop. Rollout should be completed during 2016.

Sexual misconduct course online

Three years after the creation and introduction of the Department’s required, five-hour course on clergy Sexual Misconduct, some dioceses have never offered the course to their clergy. In the dioceses that have offered the course, some clergy have been unable to attend.

The Department has redesigned this course for online access. In 2016 the course may be taken at the Department’s online education platform. As part of the online program rollout, clergy in each diocese will receive notification that they have not completed this requirement. They will be directed to the platform, where they will be able to enroll in, pay for, and participate in, the course.

Other Courses

In addition to the offerings in Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics, other courses are in the pipeline for online education. Clergy, who are currently enrolled in, or have completed, the required, five-hour course for a given year, will be able to access these additional courses, free of charge or at discounted rates.

V. Rev. Ian G. Pac-Urar
Director

Department of Evangelization
Priest John Parker, Chair
Report for Spring 2016

Planting Grants

The New Year's planting grants are under way.

Returning: St Katherine's in Carlsbad, CA; St James, Beaufort, SC; St John the Evangelist, Tempe, AZ; new this year: St Nektarios in Waxahachie, TX; St Juvenaly and His Companion, Wasilla, AK.

Diocesan Work

I gave four retreat/keynote talks this year:

1. St Basil's Mission, Wilmington, NC: keynote for their parish feast, end of January.
2. St Mark's, Bethesda, Archdiocese of Washington, DC, last weekend in March. This was a weekend retreat, including a long evangelism talk and preaching on Sunday.
3. St Katherine's, Carlsbad, CA: a mission visit in December with a 2 hour talk/presentation on Nones and Dones.
4. The fourth was outside of the OCA—as Chair of the Department I was invited to give the annual Keynote, two talks, and preaching at St Andrew's Orthodox Church, Riverside, CA (AOCA) in early December.

Grant Retreats

Tempe, AZ

Fr Jason Foster (past grant recipient) led a weekend retreat at St John's Tempe. October 2015.

Beaufort, SC

Fr Christopher Foley (past grant recipient) led a weekend retreat at St James, Beaufort (October 2015).

Annapolis, MD

Fr Justin Patterson (St Athanasius Parish was a grant recipient) gave a weekend retreat at Holy Archangels for their annual Patronal feast, co-led with Fr Gregory Mathewes-Green. Early November.

Mission School

Taught and participated in Panel Discussions at the First Mission School, the week of April 20, near Detroit, MI.

ALL-American Council

Gave Report and two full presentations on "Mission-minded Ideas"—practical advice for missions and parishes. Hosted numerous conversations about missionary work. Planting-grant Priests staffed our booth. Distributed coffee mugs, co-

sponsored with Ancient Faith Radio, as well as “Ask Me About Orthodoxy” bumper stickers.

Assembly Evangelization Study

Took part, by invitation of Alexei Krindatch, in first meeting for USA study of Evangelization in NY, November 16. Included participants from GOA and AOCA, and also Fr Eric Tosi. Study proposal has been approved to proceed through the Assembly.

OCMC

Attended board meeting in May in Johnstown, PA.

I missed the Fall Board Meeting due to meeting with Alexei Krindatch

Holy Cross Seminary Symposium

Giving closing speech/talk “Inspiring the Apathetic: Reaching out to the Nones and Dones” as a part of a 3-day Missions Symposium at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, MA.

Mission to Mexico

Construction work on the Rectory/Missions Hub in San Esteban are well under way, and sufficient funds exist (hopefully) to complete that project soon. The Department helped to fund a donated 4 wheel drive vehicle for these rural missions, organized and successfully completed by Archpriest Theodore Pisarchuk—without whom it would never have begun.

Our partnership with OCMC for a teaching team continues in 2016.

Correspondence and Conversations

Ongoing and various. Including His Grace, Bishop David (general concerns and missionary-minded priest search for Fairbanks); Archpriest Antonio Perdomo (for Spanish-speaking work); Fr Matthew Francis, beginning a mission in Chilliwack, BC, Canada; Fr Robert Holet for the website (Stewardship and Mission).

MEDIA

Website

www.goodnews.oca.org launched. It is static, and needs a manager to update content.

Ancient Faith Radio

Continuing regular and sporadic podcasts (“Lord Send Me”) on Evangelization and related topics, including interviews.

Orthodox Christian Network (OCN)

Continued writing regular (occasional/monthly) essays for the OCN website, on Evangelization.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

St Katherine's College

Visited St Katherine's with my December trip to California. Began a friendship with the President and some of the key professors. In discussions about a partnered Journal for Seekers/Inquirers, possibly to be published through the College in both digital and print formats.

Anglican Church in North America

Active participation in our ongoing discussions with the Anglican Church in North America, serving under Archbishop MELCHIZEDEK with Fr Chad Hatfield. September 29-30 in Dallas. Next Meeting Scheduled for Charleston, June 28-29 2016, to coincide with the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul.

Rick Warren

Traveled to Philadelphia, PA, (end of September) to meet with and to continue to build a relationship with Pastor Rick.

Non-Orthodox Clergy Conversations

- In very active conversation with an Anglican priest, referred to me through Ancient Faith Radio.
- In "interested" conversations with 2 Anglicans and 1 non-denominational pastor. The Anglicans I met in Philadelphia when visiting Rick Warren. The Non-denominational pastor was introduced to me through the Chancellor of Western Pennsylvania, Fr Bill Evansky.

Orthodox Church in America
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Report to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council – Spring 2016

A. Music Downloads

A major goal of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations is to provide the necessary musical resources for a parish choir in order to be able to chant the responses to all the liturgical services that are called for in the Typikon and celebrated in the local church. These musical resources are posted on the website of the Orthodox Church in America and made available as a free download. The Department at first concentrated its efforts on making available liturgical music that was not available for purchase from our seminaries and other church sources.

The Troparia and Kontakia Project, begun in 2002, has been completed as all 366 days of the calendar year have been provided with musical settings of the appointed Troparia and Kontakia. Over 2,400 individual settings of troparia and kontakia representing a variety of chant settings (Russian Common Chant/Bakhmetev-Lvov Obikhod, Kievan, Greek (Russo), Galician, Carpatho-Russian, Serbian, Byzantine, and Bulgarian) are posted on the website and available for free downloading.

Over the last six years concentrated effort was given to the major feast days: complete settings of the required music (in both Common and Kievan Chant) for Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy have been posted for the feasts of the Theophany, Meeting of the Lord, Annunciation, Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem, Ascension, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Dormition of the Theotokos, Nativity of the Theotokos, Elevation of the Holy Cross, and Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. Only selected pieces of music were posted for the Nativity of Christ and Pascha as complete music books for these two feasts have been available from our seminaries. In 2016 we will concentrate on providing music for the minor feasts of the church and will also begin adding festal stichera in the appointed “model melodies” in both the “You/Your” and “Thee/Thou” format.

The complete services of Matrimony (music setting of all sung parts plus texts of prayers and litanies), the Burial of a Priest, and Baptism were completed and are available for free downloading. The music and text for the Akathist to Our Lady of Sitka, made available when the Icon of our Lady of Sitka visited parishes in the lower States during September and October, 2005, is available on the website for free download and, during the past year, the music and the texts for the Akathist to all Saints of North America, prepared for use at the 14th All-American Council, were brought up to date and the complete service was made available for use at the 18th All-American Council held in July, 2015, in Atlanta, Ga.

During the past year the Department prepared and posted music for the commemorations of Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut (Sept 24), St Innocent (March 31, Oct 6), St Tikhon (April 7, Oct 9), St Alexis (May 7), St Jacob the Enlightener (July 26), and the Holy New Martyrs of Alaska (Sept 24) in addition to 51 pages of music for use at Vespers of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Great Lent. The texts and music for the Heirmoi of Resurrection Kanon tones (1 – 8) have been reviewed, corrected, and revised, and are now available for free-

downloading on the OCA website. In 2016 we will continue to add music for the post-Gospel stichera and the stichera on the Praises and other hymns sung at Resurrection (Sunday) Matins.

During the past year, a total of 312 newly-set pieces of music was prepared and posted on our website for free downloading. This does not include the music for the Troparion, Kontakion, Prokeimenon, Alleluia, and the Communion Hymn for the days of the week, Monday through Saturday, published in 1989 by the Department of Liturgical Music. This music has been scanned and posted on our website. In 2016, we will also scan and make available on our website the music for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, a booklet published by the Department in 1987. With the addition of this music to our website, there will be approximately 6,000 individual pieces of music available on the website of the Orthodox Church in America for free downloading and use by our choirs and their singers.

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 Father Benedict Churchhill, Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff, and Archimadrite Juvenaly (Repass). 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. Setting of music in *finale* is done by Deacon Gregory Ealy and others.

B. Texts for Liturgical Services

181 liturgical services containing the so-called *Propers* of Vespers, pointed to be sung according to the Common Chant, were posted on the website in 2015. Approximately the same number will be posted in 2016. These include services for all feasts and saints that call for a Vigil in the “official” Liturgical Calendar, in addition to the services of the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent and the services of Holy Week. The services are put together by the Chairman, rubric outlines are provided by Archimandrite Juvenaly and the texts are proofread by Dr. Vladimir Morosan. Texts are available in either TT (Thee/Thou) or YY (You/Your) form. Last year Hierodeacon Herman of St Vladimir’s Seminary assisted in posting texts using the “Thee-Thou” format; this year Dr Vladimir Morosan will assume this responsibility.

As the postings are in Microsoft Word, the texts can be downloaded and then easily adapted for local and particular use. These texts are not only being used by choir directors and singers, but many parishes are making them available for non-singers so that worshippers who do not sing in the choir can easily follow the texts as they are being chanted during the services.

C. On-line Course in Choral Conducting

For the fourth consecutive year the on-line course for Beginning Choir Directors was offered by the Department to interested and beginning choir directors. Beginning the second week in September, 2015, the course consisted of 12 (twelve) weekly sessions, with each session consisting of both video and textual teaching demonstrations to go along with daily exercises and weekly assignments. Each student meets weekly on-line via the *skype videosystem* with the

teacher of the course, Prof David Drillock, who then provides written evaluations to each participant.

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 concentrates on techniques of conducting chant, singing in phrases, analyzing examples of both metered and unmetered music, and preparing the music for conducting.

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.

Over the past four years a total of 59 students have registered for the course; 46 students (78%) have successfully completed all twelve sessions, of which all but 8 are now officially assigned as choir directors, serving parishes in the archdioceses of Canada and Washington, D. C, and the dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania, Midwest, New England, New York and New Jersey, the South, and the West. 2 students are directing parish choirs in the Greek Archdiocese, 2 in the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese, 2 in the Antiochian Archdiocese, 1 in the Serbian Orthodox Church, 1 in the Russian Orthodox Church in England, and 1 in the formerly OCA Church (now Greek Archdiocese) in South Africa.

D. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones

The inauguration of the “Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones” in both the Obikhod (Common Chant) and the Kievan “melodies” has proved to be a valuable tool in the teaching of the tones for not only choir directors who have had no formal training in Orthodox liturgical music but also for singers and others who wish to learn how the tones are formally structured.

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 explained as well as the “formula” (intonation pattern, the recitation pitch of the body of the phrase, and cadence) of the melodic line. All phrases are illustrated with musical and textual examples. Recorded choral demonstrations of the examples for each tone are presented, including full (SATB) choir, and individual lines for soprano, 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. The Department in 2016 will complete Part II of the Tutorial, analysis and learning tools for the Prokeimena, before moving on to the Kanons and the Special Melodies (Podoben).

Respectively submitted,

David Drillock, Chairperson
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Orthodox Church in America
January 29, 2016

Department of Pastoral Life
Spring 2016 Metropolitan Council
Priest Nathan Preston

Since its reconstitution at the start of 2015, the Department of Pastoral Life has worked to be attentive to the needs of clergy and clergy families within the Orthodox Church in America. Much of its still early work has been the work of listening, of taking the time and establishing opportunities for important conversations to occur. This dialogue remains ongoing, and as the department begins to live up to the other part of its call, forging constructive and innovative responses to the needs of our Church's ministers, its commitment to listening remains yet at the core of its identity and vocation. We endeavor to be informed by many voices, partners with those who so ably already serve God and the people of God.

In April of 2015, clergy delegates from every diocese of the OCA gathered at the chancery offices in Syosset to sit with each other and begin to share the challenges of those engaged in ministry. This initial meeting set much of the agenda for subsequent departmental work, introducing topics of need and concern and confirming how much these are shared across diocesan, regional, and ethnic boundaries. It was also from here and the many devoted, interested, and enthusiastic participants that the idea of an ongoing committee to address these needs took shape. This departmental executive committee began to meet in monthly teleconference in the autumn of that same year.

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, wishing to augment a small program of clergy peer groups already present and practiced there, inquired about partnering with the pastoral life department to explore options for funding and formalizing this expansion. A small allocation of travel expenses for a delegation to journey to San Francisco resulted in a sizable grant from the Pastoral Excellence Network, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment. Thus was the HOPE (Honoring Orthodox Pastoral Excellence) Program born. Though only in its first of three year's full funding, this diocesan offering has grown to provide structured and facilitated peer support for priests and priest's wives to nearly triple its original number of participants, and a similar expansion is projected in future years.

Preparing for the All American Council in Atlanta, the department crafted a survey to go out to all those in attendance there in order to open a conversation on pastoral ministry and make reflection on its challenges and blessings a topic for all, both clergy and laity. Results of this inquiry were shared among the departmental committee members and served not just to reinforce leanings or suspicions of needs endemic to our Church and meriting attention but also to bring to the fore voices and problems less heard, less presumed.

At instruction in particular from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, the role of celibate clergy and the challenges inhering and adhering to their pastoral ministry in the Church has been, for the first time ever, a subject of purposeful consideration. A series of interviews with diocesan bishops and others elucidated needs and topics of both concern and strength for parish pastors who are widowed, divorced, monastics, and celibate, and a paper detailing this is in preparation.

Similarly, the Holy Synod called upon the Department of Pastoral Life to begin to examine the very challenging topic of pastoral responses to sexual identity issues. A series of interviews with members of the Synod will begin this spring, but this conversation has started already within the monthly departmental meetings. Significantly, there the participants noted that a necessary topic needs first to be addressed: a troubling lack of trust between clergy that sometimes prevents their sharing, reflecting upon, and evaluating their pastoral experiences. The committee of the Department of Pastoral Life now is endeavoring to locate the roots of this distrust and its potential remedies.

The OCA's "Guidelines for Clergy" and "Clergy Compensation Guidelines" were brought by the Synod to the attention of this department as documents in need of updating and revision. They are now being reviewed and will be addressed by subcommittees charged with making them useful tools for priests, for bishops, and for the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

Finally, the Department of Pastoral Life is preparing to examine a topic long overdue for attention—support of clergy wives and families. At the January 2016 meeting of diocesan chancellors and treasurers, attendees were told to expect a call in the near future. That there is much and truly good work going on in so many deaneries and dioceses to build up and offer support for ministerial families is true, yet these things remain largely unknown outside of their immediate locales. Gaining a clearer sense of the scope of these offerings and their efficacy will be a good starting place to work at doing more for wives and families, for those who share in and give so much of themselves and their lives to the Church and its faithful.

In all these things, this department seeks always to listen first and act with, guided by and partnered to our bishops, our chancellors and deans, our clergy and all their families, that all may continue in strength and health to do the work to which God Himself has called them.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Nathan Preston
Administrator
Department of Pastoral Life

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry
Report for the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council
February 2016

Since our last report to the 18th All-American Council, our Department has followed its usual course of involved and diverse work. We are thankful for the recent appointment of His Grace, Bishop David, as episcopal liaison for the department and look forward to continuing our good work with him. Many of our dioceses have no official person appointed for youth work. Please examine the list [here](#) and consider appointing someone. I'm more than happy to make recommendations.

All-American Council

One of my long-term goals was to see the youth component of our All-American Councils come back to life after ten years of dormancy. In Atlanta this summer, we had a joyous and active youth program run by Fr. Benjamin Tucci (Diocese of the Midwest) and his team of outstanding volunteers. Not only were their opportunities for our youth to worship, learn, and have fellowship together, but I think they also left an impressionable mark on the greater council.

We were also delighted to offer two workshops on campus ministry to council attendees led by Priest John Diamantis (Diocese of New York/New Jersey) and Deacon Alexander Cadman (Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania).

Syndesmos

There was once an organization called Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth. This "bond of unity" brought together Orthodox youth movements and seminaries from all over the world regularly for fellowship, education, mission work, and theological reflection. Especially dear to their work was connecting youth in North America and Western Europe to those in traditional Orthodox homelands. Influential members and supports, while they were young adults and after, included Frs. John Meyendorff and Alexander Schmemmann, and John Matusiak, Now Patriarch Kyrill, The late Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese, Metropolitan Kallistos, Sophie Kolumzine, Mark Stokoe, and countless others. The OCA has a strong tradition of supporting this organization, often providing interns and staff starting with the recently departed Connie Tarasar, who interned in 1969 and most recently, myself in 2009.

In the economic downturn of 2008-2010, Syndesmos, then based in Greece, slowly began to fall apart, and really struggled to continue with even its basic mission. I'm delighted to announce that they held a festival for young adults in Suprasl, Poland in August. Archpriest Chad Hatfield (Stavropegial) led one of the discussion groups. Partnering with several of our dioceses, we were able to send five young adults to represent the OCA, having the largest single presence at the event. We look forward to helping them grow their renewed work

"Saints You Missed in Sunday School"

Our social media team, in concert with the OCA's web team, launched a great new resource called "Saints You Missed in Sunday School" which can be found at www.missed-saints.org. The web page highlights more obscure saints from the OCA's already popular "Lives of the Saints" resource and presents them in a format that's more mobile friendly and easier to share on social media. Between 2-4 saints are highlighted every week.

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Peter the Aleut Grant Program

Our grant program continues to grow in popularity. In fact, 2015 was its largest year for distributions every. This grant is reserved for youth/young adults trying to attend a qualifying retreat or program, or visit an OCA monastery or seminary to discern a vocation. Clergy and lay leaders may also apply to offset the costs of attending qualifying continuing education in youth ministry. Priest Christopher Rowe (Diocese of the Midwest) and Patrick Pletnikoff (Diocese of Alaska) oversee the grant program with me. Through this program we were able to provide financial assistance to all the children of clergy attending the AAC in Atlanta.

“Be the Bee”

We’ve been trying out some digital collaborations with the Greek Archdiocese’s Youth Department. In September, we highlighted the OCA’s Chancery in an episode of their popular web series “Be the Bee.” They also have retreats on the same theme that are currently going around the country. They are pan-Orthodox and open to youth, young adults, youth workers, and parents. Upcoming ones include:

- February 27th, 2016

Sts Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church - Chicago, IL

- March 19th, 2016

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church - Boston, MA

- April 2nd, 2016

Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church - Cleveland, OH

- April 16th, 2016

St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church - Brooklyn, NY

Let me know if you need more information. Please consider publicizing them in your dioceses.

Youth Worker’s Conference

Over 80 clergy and lay youth and camp workers gathered in Dallas, TX for this year's Pan-Orthodox Youth and Camp Workers' Conference. This annual conference is sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Camp Association and the leaders of all the different jurisdiction's youth departments. The Orthodox Church in America hosted at our Saint Seraphim's Cathedral

The theme of the conference, "Feed My Sheep: Crisis, Trauma, and Everyday Life", was explored in two keynote addresses and various workshops. Fr. Steven Voytovich, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, led the keynotes focusing on mental health and development in youth and young adults, as well as burnout and self-care for pastors and youth workers. Workshops focused on ministry to young veterans, responding to crises at camp, building effective young adult ministries, youth ministry programs in smaller parishes,

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and on campus ministry. Other OCA presenters include Priest Justin Patterson (Diocese of the South) and Priest James Parnell (Diocese of New England).

This year also saw a record number of both clergy and lay attendees from the OCA. Representatives from the Bulgarian Diocese, Diocese of the Midwest, Diocese of New England, Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Diocese of the South, and Romanian Episcopate joined in the conference.

FOCA

I had a very productive phone meeting early in 2016 with Marge Kovach, FOCA President, and Fr. Benjamin Tucci, head of their Junior Division. 2016 will be a busy year for us. The key point is that Fr. Benjamin and our department will be working together on the youth component for their upcoming convention in Chicago this July, hoping to replicate the success of the youth program at the recent AAC and introduce many more youth (and their parents) to the excellent work of the fellowship.

OCF

We continue to strongly support OCF directly from this department, through our boardmember, Dn. Alex Cadman, and through the many OCA clergy, lay people, and students that serve this critical ministry. I'm very pleased that again in 2015 we could offer scholarships to every OCA student who applied to go to their popular College Conference programs. Emma Solak, from our Diocese of Eastern PA, will be leading their student board next year. I encourage all of you to:

- Financially Support OCF directly
- Take advantage of their (and our) many resources to build up campus ministry in your local diocese
- Forward all names of graduating high school seniors to their office to keep them connected and set them up with a local chapter

Episcopal Assembly

Prior to our conference in Dallas, the Episcopal Assembly's Youth Committee Consultation met under the chairmanship of His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese. These yearly meetings have been very positive and slowly we are beginning to build joint methods of collaboration, look at joint events, and think about youth formation in a collective and disciplined way rather than the older methods largely borrowed from other denominations. The positive relationship between all the youth workers in Orthodox America continues to be a highlight of my work.

**Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)
President's Report to the Metropolitan Council
January 2016
Respectfully Submitted by President Marge Kovach**

Outreach:

Our 2015-2016 Outreach programs are well underway. The 2016 Gifts of Love campaign will raise funds to print Yupik language Orthodox Coloring Books for the children of Alaska. We have also completed another successful St. Nicholas Day Gift Campaign for married seminarian families at STOTS and SVOTS. This program is an integral part of our charitable giving and a way to support families attending seminary.

Several members of our Executive Board met with students at St. Vladimir's Seminary to give a brief presentation on the FOCA's history and philanthropic activities with the goal of familiarizing these future leaders of our churches with the goals and mission of the FOCA.

National Conventions:

Plans are currently underway for our 90th Annual National Convention, "Sweet Home Chicago," to convene on July 22 to 25, 2016 in Rosemont, Illinois. Building upon the success of hosting our National Convention in conjunction with the OCA's All American Council last year, the Diocese of the Midwest and the OCA Youth Department are working with the Chicago convention committee to organize a youth and young adult program in combination with our convention. This is an exciting opportunity, another first for our organization, and we are committed to making it a huge success.

Juniors:

Fr. Benjamin Tucci accepted his appointment as the FOCA Junior Department Director. We know Fr. Benjamin will do an excellent job leading our juniors as well as coordinating our efforts to work more closely with the OCA's Department of Youth and Young Adults. Our juniors continue to look for and participate in outreach opportunities that service both the Orthodox Church and their local communities.

National Junior Summer Sports

We will once again bring our Orthodox youth together in July for our annual National Junior Summer Sports Camping week under the direction of Deacon Daniel and Catrina Kovalak, at St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center in Ohio. We continue to have record numbers of campers registered for the weeklong camping session. This is an excellent opportunity for our Orthodox youth from across the country to get away from daily routines and to grow spiritually while living within this Orthodox community.

Upcoming Events:

National Basketball Tournament	May 13-15, 2016	South River, New Jersey
National Bowling Tournament	June 3-5, 2016	Independence, Ohio
National Junior Summer Sports Camp	July 3-9, 2016	Farmdale, Ohio
90 th National Convention	July 22-25, 2016	Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois
2016 Celebrations of Faith Creative Arts Contest		

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update on the FOCA with you. We humbly ask you to keep the FOCA, its members, and our good works in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Kovach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Marge Kovach
FOCA President

**Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Chaplaincies Spring Report 2016**

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 (VAMC) Chaplaincies currently 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 XI section 4) 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.

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. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains serve within the United States at VA Hospitals.

Endorser's Conferences:

The annual National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces(NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chief of Chaplains is conducted in January annually.. Additionally, the OCA Office of Military and VA Chaplaincy is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings. Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, Director of the OCA Institutional Chaplaincy Department attends the COMISS meetings. See highlights of the recent conferences in the report later.

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.

Our Orthodox Priests have been deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. Our priests provided worship Services during holy Week and Pascha in tandem with other Orthodox Chaplains from other branches of the services. Others have served with coalition forces for example from Estonia, Georgia, and Romania and others have mentored and have served with the first Orthodox Chaplain in the Canadian Forces since WWII. Others have advised on various issues and concerns such as those who served

with the Coast Guard in Alaska where they advised on coastal Alaskan communities which are indigenously Orthodox.

Included among the continued 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.

Active Duty

United States Air Force

Father Eugene Lahue, Chaplain, Major, USAF

Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAF Joint Base Lackland, San Antonio, TX

United States Army

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ) USA JAG School

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

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT) USA Korea

United States Navy

Father Stephen Duesenberry CDR CHC USN Camp Lejeune, NC

Reserve Component

United States Air Force

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

United States Army

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USAR

Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Sizemore Chaplain (MAJ) USAR

United State Navy

Father Herman Kincaid

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 as a full time position at the Miami VAMC recently. 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 Post Traumatic Stress, palliative care, substance abuse; etc.

Father Michael Westerberg retired from the VAMC. His position was filled by Fr James Parnell.

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 James Parnell – New Haven, CT
Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL
Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA
Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

Need for chaplains military.

Recruitment of seminarians in the various branches of our US Armed Forces continues to be conducted. Also, discussion with the Holy Synod of Bishops reference the need for chaplains continues.

ENDORSING 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 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 Dean/Director of the OCA Chaplaincies as well as the candidate must meet the requirements of the United States Armed Forces or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center National Chaplain Office.

Some highlights of past NCMAF/ECVAC meetings include: Meeting was held January 12 through January 15, 2016. Monday Evening included a tour of the National Cathedral and an Interfaith Service. Tuesday and Wednesday Sessions included presentations on Military Chaplains as the First and Last Line of Hope: Serving those in harm's way by Dr Greg Jesson, Professor Luther College; Vision and plan for the future by Renee Becker, UMBC and Chaplain Jack Lea, Executive Director NCMAF; Defending Religious Liberty in Time of Change Daniel Briggs, Legal Counsel, Director of Military Affairs, Alliance Defending Freedom; Coaching our Transitioning Warriors The Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregivers; Endorsers as Bridge to Civilian Life: Best Practices Interactive Workshop led by Rabbi Dr Elliot Salo Schoenberg and Dr Keith Travis and Randy Edwards; Endorser Travel Policy Update by Jerome A Hinson CAPT CHC USN Armed Forces Chaplains Board, Executive Director; and a presentation by the Chiefs of Chaplains Recruiters. Thursday sessions were conducted at the Mark Center Visitors Center with briefings by the three Chiefs of Chaplains (RADM Margaret G. Kibben, CHC, USN; Ch, MG, Paul K Hurley, USA; and Ch, MG Dondi E. Dostin, USAF. The personnel directors of the respective chaplains corps presented briefings. The afternoon sessions were on the annual compliance process of the endorsers which is now done via the internet.

The COMMIS met on Sunday and Monday of which Fr Steven Voytovich attended and which was covered by the OCA Website, thanks to Fr. John Matusiak for posting the article with picture.

I also attended the joint Military Chaplain Association (MCA) and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) October 28-31. The conference presentations I attended were on "My VA" Experience and chaplains hosted by Chaplain Michael McCoy; Mentoring 101 enabling the chaplains of tomorrow by Chaplain Mikle Langston; Screening of the movie Chaplains. Moral injury by panel of Dr Ed Tick; Mr David Wood and Chaplain Herman Keizer USA Retired; Religious Freedom in the Armed Forces RADM Margaret Kibben, CHC, USN Chief of Chaplains as well as the business meeting and memorial service.

A meeting with Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Daniel, Fr Ted Boback and Fr Joseph Gallick will be held at the Chancery on 19 February 2016 to discuss the Military and VA Chaplaincies. There has also been discussion with Fr Steven Voytovich on conducting a joint OCA Chaplaincies Conference.



L to R Fr Ted Boback, Rev. Herman Keizer, Chaplain (COL) USA Retired and
RADM Margaret G. Kibben, CHC, USN



Between meetings that Fr. Steven and Fr. Ted attended, they gathered for a photograph with (from left to right) The Rev. David Plummer, former Chair of COMISS and Endorser for the Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches, and The Rev. Michael McCoy, past Secretary of COMISS, and current Director of VA Chaplains at Department of Veterans Affairs. Rev. McCoy is from the National Baptist community.

Spring 2016 Report

[Office of Institutional Chaplaincy]

1 OFFICE MANDATE

The Office 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 Office's Director, supporting the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitating dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings.

2. OFFICE MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

Chair: V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich
Members: V. Rev. John Maxwell, Frs. John Brown, Paul Fetsko, Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh, Michael Medis, Timothy Hasenecz, Christopher Stanton, Dn. David Neff, Sarah Byrne, Logan Johnson, Elaine Mayol, Anna Nikitina,

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

Jessica D'Angio, Larisa Waya

Website: www.orthinc.org

3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2015 Budget Estimated Actual: \$6,000 stipend, roughly \$2553.41 expenses: total: **\$8,553.41**
- 2016 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, \$? expenses

4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Fr. Steven was able to attend COMISS and AREB meetings in January (2016).
- Our website has received much needed improvements, and we are in the process of launching a Facebook page connected to our website.
- Sadly, our chaplains in service are being reduced. Fr. John Brown will be retiring next January after service in Federal Bureau of Chaplains, and Fr. John Maxwell is currently on disability leave. Your prayers are asked for Fr. Maxwell.
- With our improved internet visibility, I plan to reach out to Orthodox Christians serving in emergency response roles. We heard presentations from organizations supporting them in January meetings, and this will be shared as well.
- Have met briefly with several of our chaplains while traveling for other purposes.
- The International Congress for Pastoral Care and Counseling was held in California this past fall. Fr. Steven has represented our church at several of these congresses around the world since 1999, but was unable to attend this congress.
- Thank you for the opportunity to address the delegates of the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta concerning institutional chaplaincy, particularly as our ministry is in fact a strong witness to the focus of Expanding the Mission!

Future Developments:

- We will continue to feature a number of our institutional chaplains in their ministry contexts on our www.orthinc.org website during the 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.
- A Compassion-in-Action (CiA) implementation is currently underway, with one of our chaplains assisting in this regard. We met briefly together during the All-American Council.
- Support the Strategic Plan:
 - Our chaplains are assisting 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.
 - Continue to represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena
- Hopefully opportunities will arise to continue the dialogue begun two years ago with our Orthodox Campus Fellowships (OCF) to support their chaplains. Met with youth in Dallas in January.

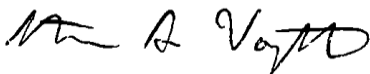
5. COMMENTS

As is both known and previously stated, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops continues to struggle in navigating growing pains, and it remains challenging to discern where we as OCA should stand in relation to institutional chaplaincy and endorsement. At the least at the present time this program is robust, working, and assisting our clergy and faithful to serve in institutional chaplaincy roles. The OCA continues to have the most significant experience in the non-military institutional chaplaincy arena alongside military chaplaincy.

It remains meaningful for me to serve in the role of Office Director, and I look forward to supporting our growing number of chaplains serving in a variety of settings. At our endorsers meetings in January, it became clear to me that my role as seminary dean is not a deficit, but in fact a complementary skillset to my role as endorser! I share this as the clinical training community is taking a renewed look at seminary roles in formation of chaplains, and I am both able to contribute to and benefit from this conversation!

In closing, I ask for your prayers on behalf of the men and women serving as chaplains in our institutional settings, bearing witness to the light of Christ to many who are hungry, sick, incarcerated, and in danger.

Respectfully submitted,



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



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February 15, 2016

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, honorable clergy and lay delegates:

On behalf of the OCA Pension Board, I take this opportunity to update you on the status of the Pension Plan as of December 31, 2015.

The net time-weighted return for calendar year 2015 was -6.11%, which is the result of extreme volatility in the markets, especially in the third and fourth quarters of 2015. The concerns that the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates and China's announced anticipation of a slower growth rate going forward both drove the market down. The balanced global portfolio benchmark that we use for this same period was -2.82%. However, the 3 year net time-weighted annualized return was a positive 3.49% compared to the benchmark of 1.45% and the net time-weighted annualized return for the plan since the current strategy was employed on December 1, 2012, was a positive 4.2% compared to the benchmark of 2.08%. The ending market value of plan assets at December 31, 2015 was \$24,249,348.

Corrections like those experienced in 2015 have a silver lining in that they present opportunities for investments to be added to the portfolio which will perform well over the long-term despite negative events. The Milliman Risk Strategy put in place during the past two years has performed as expected, protecting the plan in periods of substantial downturn, but also creating a slight drag in returns when markets are performing positively.

With regard to participation in the Pension Plan, there are currently 335 active participating members (the highest number to date) and 174 monthly benefits recipients.

The Pension Board was represented at the recent Chancellors/Treasurers meeting held at the Chancery by Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, treasurer of NY/NJ and trustee of the Plan, who distributed detailed lists of participants to the chancellors and treasurers and presented plan materials to them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priest Gleb McFatter, Chairman