

CHICAGO DEANERY REPORT
Diocesan Assembly, 2009
Archpriest Thomas Mueller, Dean

ILLINOIS

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, CHICAGO – Fr John Adamcio, Dean
Restoration of the cathedral continues – new canopy, roof.
Three new catechumens and three inquirers.
Active church school, youth group being formed.
Metropolitan JONAH visited for Liturgy on July 26th; Metropolitan Krystof of Slovakia visited in the spring.
Parish grant application submitted: “Personal Parish Histories”. Involves visiting older parishioners, videorecording their historical reminiscences of parish life, involving Sunday School in writing up these stories. Aims to unite parishioners across the generations.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR, CHICAGO – Fr John Baker, Rector
For 2nd year, hosted neighborhood block party on Parish/Dioc. grounds.
10/08 Iconographer Fr Theodore Jurewicz began murals in altar, continuing this work in 8/09. If funds are raised, he will resume work next year. Three year/three phase plan to be completed in 2012.
Archbishop JOB resigned as rector in 1/09 and ended Archbishop’s Chapel status of Christ the Savior; Fr John Baker named rector.
Gaining new members steadily, but losing as many through relocation.
Sunday Liturgy attendance 60-70. Weekday services well-attended.
College student membership less than in past years. Parish Health Grant application submitted for program aimed at local unchurched Orthodox.
Tithing a percentage of offerings to community or other causes, like St Makarios Mission or St Juvenaly Mission, Kona, Hawaii.
Continuing to draw Orthodox visiting Chicago.
Two baptisms, 2 receptions by Chrismation, 2 weddings, 4 catechumens.

ST. MAKARIOS MISSION, CHICAGO Hyde Park – Fr Elijah Mueller
Mission established in July, 2008. Presently serving mostly faculty, staff, students at Univ. of Chicago & other educational and medical institutions in this South Side Chicago area. Univ. of Chicago has 11,000 employees. University chapel used for services. Outreach to people in and around the university. Expanding outreach to people in surrounding neighborhoods. Outreach involves personal contact and offering of educational programs. Planning programs on fasting (why, how, cooking for a fast) and on Christianity in Africa (Hyde Park is a highly integrated area).

Liturgical schedule: Saturday & Tuesday Vespers, Sunday Liturgy, festal services. Paschal attendance was 50, including many visitors. Sunday School, Tues. night discussions, Introduction to Orthodoxy on Saturdays.
Three baptisms; presently 3 catechumens.

HOLY RESURRECTION, PALATINE – Fr Alexander Kuchta, Rector
109 active and supporting members (88 adults, 21 children). 15 – 20 others attending services, of whom 6 or 7 are catechumens.
Parish Growth Team working on Parish Health Inventory. Intend to use information gleaned to inform the work & direction of Parish Council. Growth and planning to be incorporated into agenda & work of Council. Beautification of Temple continues: icon of Holy Trinity installed in High Place; other icons arriving for placement in the dome. Five bells from the Vera Foundry in Voronezh donated and installed in a ground level bell tower. Sessions planned to train bell ringers. 40th Anniversary celebration planned for 2010.

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, BURBANK – Fr Luke Nelson, Rector
This is the 100th Anniversary year: 6/09 – 6/10.
First anniversary event – 6/20/09 – Prof. Robert Bird of U of Chicago speaking on the Russian Orthodox Beginning: “Revolution & Reaction”.
Second event – 9/12/09 – Orthodox Approaches to Ethics & Contemporary Moral Issues – 2 presentations & panel discussion.
Third event – 11/7-8/09 – Achimandrite Vladimir (Wendling): “On Being an Orthodox Christian Today” (Sat.); Hierarchical Liturgy & Anniversary Banquet (Sunday).
Fourth event – Great Lent, 2010.
Fifth Event – June, 2010 – (possibly) Metropolitan JONAH on “The Future of Orthodoxy in North America”.
Other: 1 baptism , 2 funerals, 1 family of 5 moving out of state due to job.

ST. LUKE, PALOS HILLS – Fr. Andrew Harrison, Rector
Participated in Parish Health Inventory with Joe Kormos, examining the Inventory’s 8 areas of parish life. Based on this, St. Luke’s appears to be a healthy parish with continued growth.
Presently 115 adults & 60 children, with an additional 45 adults on the mailing list who frequent services.
Three baptisms, 1 wedding, 10 chrismations, 5 funerals.

In this 25th anniversary year, the parish faces long and short-term challenges, revealed through the Parish Health Inventory process. In the short term, we are outgrowing facilities & need to reconfigure church seating to add 10-15 spots each year over the next 3 years. Increasing the size of the parking lot. Negotiating with the Forest Preserve for additional space. We are considering having 2 Sunday Liturgies, at 7am & 9:30am; this awaits Archbishop JOB's decision. There is consideration of getting a second priest.

In the long term, we may consider sponsoring a mission where we have parishioners south of I-80. Zoning may deter expansion of present facilities.

Have 39 ministries listed on our web site, stlukeorthodox.com. Three parish missionaries went to Romania & Tanzania. Completed 2nd term as homeless shelter in PADS network. Tenth year of ministry to the mentally challenged. Annual 9/11 Memorial service. New Year's/25th anniversary party. Choir director retired with replacement from within parish. Deacon Danial Doss is attending St Tikhon's Seminary. Six parish youth attended Chicago Deanery Youth Camp.

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, BURR RIDGE – Fr Herman Kincaid, Rector

Moving forward with renewed energy & optimism. Sudden death of Fr Stephen Karaffa on 11/11/08 left the community in a state of uncertainty & grief. Parish moved forward with guidance of Archbishop JOB and other clergy. Fr Herman Kincaid assigned as Rector on March 1. A native son of the parish, John (Kenneth) Kornafel, ordained deacon on Lazarus Saturday. Deacon John completed the Deanery Late Vocations program. Fr. Herman is taking every opportunity to meet with parishioners and become familiar with the parish's rich history.

Activities for enrichment & fellowship for the faithful & visitors: morning prayer twice a week, with working professionals in mind; plans for a traveling adult class, focusing on the Fathers; adult Bible study at church; weekly youth group meeting; men's group; monthly inquirers' class; and other family oriented activities. All centered around liturgical worship, the heart of the community.

Regular office hours scheduled at church, making Temple the center of parish life and activity.

Good number of youth attended Chicago Deanery Youth Camp.

ST. JOSEPH. WHEATON – Fr John Matusiak, Rector

Significant membership increase: large number of converts, many students, and several refugee families from Iraq and Iran. Three Sunday

morning Liturgies.

Plans for construction of new hall delayed by unexpectedly low appraisal of parish property in today's poor housing market. Three-month drive to raise additional \$120,000 initiated in June. \$55,000 raised by end of July. Hoping to begin construction in the fall.

Celebration of 20th anniversary in the first weekend of May, with Archbishop JOB officiating, ordaining Lawrence Dugoni to the diaconate & elevating John Coleman to the dignity of protodeacon. St Tikhon's Seminary Choir and Dean Fr Michael Dahulich also took part.

Hosted Metropolitan JONAH & Archbishop JOB at Great Vespers and festive potluck on July 25th. 230 attended. The Metropolitan blessed newly completed deacons' doors. Three additional icons installed, completing bottom row of iconostas.

Hosted Seminarian Josh Coolman for 5 weeks, as he worked closely with Fr John Matusiak in area of iconography. Hoping that he will intern with St. Joseph's next summer, beginning work on 2nd & 3rd rows of iconostas.

Started an OCF for students & young adults, with participation from Wheaton College, College of DuPage, and other schools.

A parish member, Nun Alexandra (Magan) moved to Ligonier, PA. to start a women's monastery there within the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Large number of youth participating in Chicago Deanery Youth Camp – also 6 camp counselors.

ST NICHOLAS, JOLIET (founded 1907) – Fr John E Kuchta, Rector

Complete cooperation with other local Orthodox parishes: Thanksgiving Liturgy, nameday & Lenten services.

Lewis University Choir of Romeoville, IL. presented a concert of sacred music at St Nicholas – “An Evening of Orthodox Hymns” – under direction of Dr Lawrence Sisk, University Choir Master. Included compositions of Stephen J. Platko, the late parish choir director.

Donation of several cartons of food to Joliet Food Pantry. Participation in IOCC “Health Kit Program”: health kits assembled for distribution to disaster victims in US & throughout the world.

At Christmas, “adoption” of needy Joliet children, providing new Christmas gifts of clothing and toys for them.

On 9/12/09, “Will County's Right to Life” meeting at St. Nicholas to foster the “Sanctification of Life Movement in Joliet.”

On 8/23, Peter & Sharon Georges of Chardon, OH. Gave a power point presentation to encourage support of the St Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund, assisting Ugandan orphans to complete education and have good housing and nourishment.

Members active in Synergy, a pan-Orthodox lay group committed to Orthodox unity. Active also in the Pan-Orthodox Choir which sings for several services annually.

St. Nicholas' faithful have a positive attitude about the future of the OCA.

HOLY APOSTLES, BLOOMINGTON – Fr John Brown

One baptism, 3 catechumens under instruction.

Retired attached priest Fr Justin Foster providing critical ongoing pastoral care to 2 council members with serious illnesses.

Visit by Antiochian Deacon James Bryant from Seattle – an architect who evaluated situation and gave us technical advice relating to future building plans.

Priest-in-charge Fr. John Brown, a full-time prison chaplain, attended the Orthodox Prison Ministry Convocation in Denver.

Reestablishing an OCF chapter at nearby Illinois State University.

PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, ROYALTON – Fr Nicholas Finley

Fr. Nicholas completing first year of pastorate.

One adult baptism, 1 infant baptism, and 1 chrismation. Catechesis class for adults – presently 2 people attending it, with both attending services and intending to be received into the Church.

Sunday School with 5 children from 3 – 12 years of age.

Adult education monthly from November through in conjunction with a bring -&-share meal. Covered the 2-volume set Sacred Symbols That Speak by Anthony Coniaris.

Visit by Archbishop JOB in February to install Fr. Nicholas.

Cabbage roll fundraising dinner in February.

Vespers & Liturgy for all major feasts – planning expansion to lesser feasts.

Fr. Nicholas participating in St Louis Orthodox clergy gathering each month. St. Louis area churches visited Holy Protection for Vespers & meal on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Good attendance.

Note from the dean: All who read this should be aware that Holy Protection went through a period of decline in finances, membership, & pastoral leadership, almost to the point of not being able to accept a resident priest. The state of the parish represents a revival of hope, life, & energy.

Other Illinois parishes: St. George Cathedral, Chicago; St. Panteleimon, Summit.

WISCONSIN

St. NICHOLAS, KENOSHA – Fr Stephen Hrycyniak, Rector

Modest growth, primarily among recent Slavic émigrés.

Parish apartment being refurbished to provide transitional housing.

Finances improving due to memorial gifts & enhanced giving.

New web-cam system installed to provide live streaming of divine services.

Landscaping project completed to reduce upkeep of parish grounds.

Diocesan grant-funded gardening project now producing fresh produce for area food pantry.

Spiritual Life Center has hosted a steady trickle of clergy for private directed retreats.

Fr. Stephen Hrycyniak completed a couples counseling course and was certified to administer the Prepare/Enrich instrument.

ST. MATTHEW, GREEN BAY – Fr. John Wehling, Rector

Continued growth – 3 new members received, 3 catechumens.

Instruction for children, youth, & adults through church school, small groups, catechesis, & midweek class following Vespers

Donating food to local pantry and also supplying a small pantry for those who come to the church seeking assistance.

Fr. Andrew Morbey led Nativity retreat in December.

Lenten, Holy Week, & Paschal services well-attended.

Retired attached priest Fr Michael Herrick assists & services at Holy Transfiguration Chapel in Sister Bay (Door County) in the summer.

SS CYRIL & METHODIUS, MILWAUKEE – Fr Thomas Mueller, 25 yrs. as rector
Membership: 84 adults, 43 children. One-third of parish African-American, nearly one-half members belong to immigrant families.

Deacon John Jones ordained to priesthood by Archbishop JOB in May & George Potym elevated to protodeacon after 11 years of faithful diaconal ministry. Fr John Jones finished Deanery Late Vocations Program & then spent the past year at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Assigned to parish.

Fr. Gregory Wassen attached 8/09; his wife Sarah is a doctoral student in Theology at Marquette Univ. in Milwaukee.

Igumen Alexander (Golitzin), attached to parish since 1989, to be elevated to archimandrite. Theology Professor at Marquette.

Many youth activities, with very strong youth participation in Liturgy – choir is virtually all youth. 12 parish youth at Chicago Deanery Youth Camp.

35 parishioners took part in 3rd annual Pan-Orthodox Youth Day in June.

Parish delegation of 5 took part in Diocesan Urban Parish Summit in July.

Urban & neighborhood outreach ministries: After School Arts Program, Block Party, Playground, Women's/Children's Shelter work; Interfaith social justice ministry participation (MICAH – Gamaliel Network). Considering adding English as a Second Language Program as part of neighborhood outreach – neighborhood is heavily Mexican-American.

Sunday School with 35 children, Introduction to Orthodoxy, Book Study group (presently reading Fr Meletios Webber). Full liturgical cycle: Vespers, Matins, Liturgy. Two students in Late Vocations-Higher Education. Since last Assembly: 5 baptisms, 6 chrismations, 1 wedding, 2 funerals.

HOLY THEOPHANY CHAPEL, LAKE GENEVA/WILLIAMS BAY

This is an outreach of SS Cyril & Methodius at this resort community 50 miles southwest of Milwaukee. Sunday Liturgy twice a month, coordinated by Protodeacon George Potym. Average participation 15, with 25-30 in July & August. Planning a blessing of Lake Geneva on Saturday, 1/9/10 with interparish participation. SS. Cyril & Methodius also provides a monthly service to a small group of Orthodox in Plymouth, WI., 55 miles north of Milwaukee. Two baptisms at (and in) Lake Geneva.

Other Wisconsin community: St Herman Chapel, West Bend.

INDIANA

PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, MERRILLVILLE – Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector Parishioners of the closed St Clement of Ochrid Parish continue to attend and take part in parish life – cautiously optimistic that they will merge with Holy Protection. St. Clement's parish property has been sold.

Vacation Bible School was again a success.

Deacon Christopher Sarafin was ordained a priest by Archbishop JOB and is assisting at Holy Protection.

Metropolitan JONAH & Archbishop JOB visited in July 21 in conjunction with discussions with an Anglican traditionalist diocese headquartered in the area.

Other Indiana parish: St. Elizabeth, Chesterton.

INTERPAROCHIAL DEANERY ACTIVITIES

Deanery meetings regularly throughout the fall, winter, & spring.

Three-year Late Vocations Higher Education Program coordinated by Fr Elijah Mueller. Current LV course on Spirituality has 11 students; some of these are looking toward possible diaconal ministry, some to other callings in the Church. Participants include men and women.

Deanery Youth Camp at East Troy, WI, June 27 – July 1, 2009: 50 youth, 9 adult counselors; coordinated by Frs Tom Mueller & Joe Kopka and Pat Labun. 7 parishes sending youth. Educational theme around difficult issues confronting youth: stereotyping & prejudice, moral decisions, communications, marriage & sexuality. Presentation on vocation to iconography by Maria Klesmith of Lake Geneva Holy Theophany Chapel. Great camp. Youth choir & director for services. Winter camp planned for 12/1-2/09 at same location. Next summer camp 7/6-10/10.

Lenten Sunday Vespers at Burbank, Merrillville, Wheaton, Burr Ridge & Bridegroom Matins on Palm Sunday at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Homily theme: "The Good Shepherd" as exemplified by various holy bishops. Homilists: Fathers Tom Mueller, John Adamcio, Andrew Harrison, Herman Kincaid, & Elijah Mueller. Annual Clergy Family Paschal Meal at Archbishop's residence 5/17.

In February, excellent Power Point Workshop on Domestic Violence presented at Palatine by Deacon Timothy & Beatrice Jones.

Deanery Choir under Cathedral Choir Dir. Gregory Ealy sings at various deanery-wide liturgical services during the year.

Seminarian Fund-raising Dinner Sept 27th – coordinated by Fr John Adamcio.