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St. Theodosius Cathedral
Cleveland - 1896
Archpriest John Zdinak

Holy Assumption Church
Marblehead - 1899
Priest David A Lis

SS. Peter and Paul Church
Lorain - 1913
Archpriest Basil Stoyka

St. Nicholas Church
Mogadore - 1917
Priest Nicholas Wyslutzky

St. John the Baptist Church
Campbell - 1917
Archpriest John Steffaro

SS. Peter and Paul Church
Lakewood-1917
Archpriest Yves C Babich

Archangel Michael Church
Broadview Heights - 1922
Archpriest John Memorich

St. John the Baptist Church
Warren -1927
Priest Jonathan Cholcher

Holy Assumption Church
Canton - 1958
Priest Stacey Richter

Holy Trinity Church
Parma - 1963
Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky

St. Andrew Church
Maple Heights 1968
Archpriest Emilian D Hutnyan

St. Nicholas Church
Mentor - 1974
Archpriest Andrew Clements

St. Innocent Church
Olmsted Falls - 1984
Priest Michael Butler

Monastery of
St. John the Theologian
Hiram 1981
Archimandrite Alexander,
Abbot

CLEVELAND DEANERY

Diocese of the Midwest

Report to the Diocesan Assembly **October 5 - 7, 2009**

- A. We meet four times a year to conduct business meetings. On the fifth Thursday in Great Lent we participate in a Lenten Retreat at St. John the Theologian Monastery, Hiram. The brothers also participate in the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the Monastery.
- B. Sunday of the Cross – Deanery service, Akathist to the Cross, 5:00 PM at St. Theodosius Cathedral (Cleveland) with supper to follow; Fr. Gregory Jensen, homilist. Michael Pilot's Male Chorus will sing hymns during the recessional. A motion was passed to purchase 500 icon cards from JD Publications for distribution to the faithful as they venerate the cross following the Akathist.
- C. We would like to welcome Fr. Stacey Richter and his family to our Deanery. Fr. Stacey has been assigned to Holy Assumption Parish, Canton, Ohio. We pray that he has a productive and spiritual pastorate at Holy Assumption.
- D. We would also like to sincerely thank Fr. Gregory Jensen for his invaluable assistance at Holy Assumption as the interim pastor. Fr. Gregory's pastorate has allowed the members of Holy Assumption to heal from their spiritual malaise and allowed them to be fiscally secure so that they could support a full time priest.
- E. Holy Cross Orthodox Mission in Nashville, Ohio, has been officially closed, and the building has been sold. Some religious articles (Iconostasis, winding-sheet, etc.) still need to be re-possessed. I have several religious articles from the mission parish that could be used for new missions parishes. Please contact me if you are interested.
- F. Altar Servers' Rally (held Feb. 16, 2009, at St. Michael's, Broadview Heights): a total of 50 participants; next year's Rally has been scheduled for January 18, 2010 (Martin Luther King, Jr. day) at a location yet to be specified.
- G. Several of our clergy are Chaplains during the camping season at St. Vladimir's Camp, Farmingdale, OH. This camp is under the auspices of the Ohio District FOCA. A report of the camp is attached to the end of the parish reports.
- H. Our Brothers continue to participate in the various clergy associations within their home parish geographical area: ex. Cleveland, Akron, Warren, Youngstown.

Parishes of the Cleveland Deanery

- **St. Theodosius Cathedral Cleveland - 1896 Archpriest John Zdinak**
- **Holy Assumption Church Marblehead - 1899 Priest David A Lis**
- **SS. Peter and Paul Church Lorain – 1913 Archpriest Basil Stoyka**
 - **FIRST SATURDAY OF GREAT LENT**

- Our Annual St. Theodore Conference 8s Retreat was held on the First Saturday of Great Lent, March 7th. This years speaker was Archpriest Constantine Nasr, Pastor of St. Elijah Orthodox Church, Oklahoma. His topics" "Fighting The Good Fight," 8s "Mission of Orthodoxy."
- The day began with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am., Blessing of Kolivo (Honor of St. Theodore), Breakfast 8s Luncheon Conference. And the Retreat began at 12:30 pm. And ended with Vespers & Confessions, 4:00 pm.
- The following day, 'The Sunday of Orthodoxy,' Father Constantine was our guest speaker at the Divine' Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Hosted by the Orthodox Churches of Greater Lorain.
- That evening, Father Constantine was guest speaker for the Annual Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers in Cleveland, OH.
- 96TH. ANNIVERSARY
- SS. Peter 8s Paul Orthodox Church, Lorain, OH., is the Third Oldest Parish in the Cleveland Deanery. On June 28th & 29th. we Celebrated three Anniversary: 1) 96th Anniversary of the Parish, 2) 2000th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles. And the 25th Anniversary of our 'Thursdays Bible Study & Fellowship.
- We learned, that portions Of Relics of SS. Peter 8s Paul were housed at Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Lorain. Father Basil was able to borrow them for these celebrations.
- Great Vespers 8s Akathist Service was held the evening before, by His Eminence, Archbishop Job and visiting clergy.
- On the Feastday of SS. Peter & Paul (June 29), Hierarchical Holy Divine Liturgy was served with visiting Cleveland Deanery Clergy and Faithful: Fr. John Zdinak, St. Theodosius Cathedral; Fr. John Memorich, Archangel Michael Church; Fr. Emilian Hutnyan, St. Andrew Church; Fr. John Steffaro, St. John Church; Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky, Holy Trinity Church; Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky, St. Nicholas Church; Fr. David Lis, Holy Assumption Church; Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak. And Deacons from SS. Peter & Paul Church: Edward Kolenda & Basil McNary.
- The Festal Divine Liturgy was followed by a Cross Procession with the Holy Relics, group pictures, and luncheon was hosted by the parish community.

A special commemorative pendent design by Fr. Basil was given to everyone present.

- **St. Nicholas Church Mogadore - 1917 Priest Nicholas Wyslutsky**
- **St. John the Baptist Church Campbell - 1917 Archpriest John Steffaro**
 - This past year has been a devastating one for our nation and for the world. In the midst of war, political unrest, economic devastation, and shaken trust in the church, our St. John's family has shown love, charitable works, faith and patience. This is the measure of unprecedented spiritual growth. We seldom hear the old complaints. The blame game has virtually come to an end and in its stead we have seen our family turn to the Lord for strength through prayer.
 - A priest is not only held responsible for the spiritual growth but he is also responsible for fiscal stability of the parish. Our faithful family has taken on this responsibility through stewardship and unselfish charitable works. Our children have led the way in recognizing that we at St John's are part of the much larger family of man. Beginning with Operation Smile last Pascha, the children collected support to enable six children to have a reason to "smile". The children took on

other projects to help hurricane victims. Then they wrote cards and greetings to our shut-ins. They collected gifts to make a special Christmas for a Seminarian family. In addition, they continue to support the ongoing project of Warm the Children.

- We have opened our church to the Alzheimer Support group and the Angel Food Ministries. We have aided a Seminarian family on a monthly basis. Our O Club and Sisterhood have committed \$9,000 over a three year period to married student housing at St. Tikhon's. Have you noticed these are all outreach programs? We have taken steps to be what the Lord's church is called to be. I do not want this report to sound boastful but we must recognize the good path we are taking to do God's will. The chair lift project has been funded through your love and generosity. The water problems has been addressed and we pray the water will flow away from our Fellowship Hall.
 - There are at least five men interested in extended education in Theology. We are blessed to have a *spiritual renewal* in our midst. This has been ongoing with our women who share their time, talent, and inspiration with us on a daily basis. They make our Fellowship Hall alive with baking and cooking projects. We are blessed with their dedication and love. We extend our gratitude to those who work inside and outside of our church in order to beautify the Lord's house.
 - Our communication with our Lord through prayers and praise by the choir is certainly a positive "note". Our bulletins are a great outreach to our parish family, our shut-ins and students. We have truly committed ourselves to one another through our actions. When we continue in this direction, God will send us people to grow His Church. The driving force behind our church is Jesus Christ and growth will happen naturally through Him. We are not to build our church on programs, personalities, gimmicks, fundraisers techniques, or pride. Our purpose is to build on the eternal purpose of God: to bring others to Him and to let God work in them.
 - Yes, this is an encouraging report and we are grateful to our Lord who is always with us. He is waiting to embrace us. He wants us to love Him, to focus on Him, and put our faith in Him. He wants us to reach Him, to know Him. With Him, there is only a positive report for He is our hope, our Saviour and our reason for gathering at St. John the Baptist now and ever and unto ages of ages.
- **SS. Peter and Paul Church Lakewood-1917 Archpriest Yves C Babic**
 - **Archangel Michael Church Broadview Heights - 1922 Archpriest John Memorich**
 - St. Michael's continues to be an active, thriving, energetic parish within the community of greater Cleveland. We have been enthusiastically participating in the diocesan Church Growth program which, with the help of Joe Kormos, has reoriented us to think a bit "outside of the box" and move past our comfort/complacent zones with regards to how we operate, function, and promote our parish to the outside world. By the grace of God, we are currently enjoying the benefits of our endeavors through a rather unique and sudden growth spurt. Since last October twelve new families have joined our congregation. Whether this was by divine design or mere coincidence, these additions to our parish have helped to add a renewed sense of vitality and encouragement to one of the oldest, yet most vibrant parishes of the Cleveland Deanery.
 - Besides our continued commitment to champion philanthropic endeavors, we also passed two rather momentous motions during our 2009 annual meeting. First, we

decided take the word “Russian” out of our name (St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church) and change our title to reflect a more appropriate configuration – Archangel Michael Orthodox Church. We will undoubtedly still refer to ourselves affectionately as “St. Michael’s,” but all official letterhead, documentation, and our front sign will be changed to reflect our new vision.

- Secondly, we also passed a motion to hire a full-time associate pastor for the parish. This is perhaps the most important decision our congregation has ever made and one that is long overdue. Taking to heart the proverb, “Without a vision, the people perish” (29:18), this literal leap of faith resulted from the realization that we are at a distinct turning point in the history of our parish. Interpreting a cue from societal trends at large and the many local area Roman Catholic churches which were forcibly closed during the past year, we have come to the point of understanding that either we must begin to “grow ourselves” or we will ultimately “wither away” through attrition.
- In desiring to perpetuate the Church and our own church community for future generations, parishioners decided to put their money where their heart is and move towards the hiring of an associate priest. It is our hope that a second priest will not simply help handle the large caseload of work here at St. Michael’s, but will also help free up the precious time needed to attract and minister to others seeking the True Faith. At present we have been accepting applications and resumes for this position.
- **John the Baptist Church Warren -1927 Priest Jonathan Cholcher**
 - 1. Mystical (Sacramental) Life
 - At St. John’s we continue to serve Divine Liturgy twice a week, on Sundays and Wednesdays (shifted to the feast day if it occurs other than the Wednesday), both preceded by Vespers and/or Vigil on the eve of the day. The majority of members commune every Sunday. Confession is offered every Saturday evening and by appointment. Liturgy on Sundays is followed by coffee hour and Bible Class/Church School. Following Vespers on Tuesday evenings, a Path to Salvation (Scripture/Patristic) class is held. In September 2009 daily Matins will be served every Thursday morning.
 - Since the last Diocesan Assembly, we have received one adult by Chrismation and three children by Baptism/Chrismation. The norm is for Baptisms to be administered during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings. We served one Marriage and five funerals, one member who reached the venerable age of 105.
 - 2. Active Life
 - We facilitate a Classic Literature Reading Group at the local Borders (book store) Café every Wednesday morning. The Sisterhood meets once a month for lunch and discussion, and they maintain both the Church and Hall (kitchen). Volunteers landscape and maintain the exterior property. In September 2009 a Men’s Bible Breakfast will be served once a month for fellowship and edification, and the Youth (Teen) group will meet at least every other week to consider their spiritual life and Christian service. From September to April 8-10 members form a team in a local bowling league which competes

every Sunday evening.

- Our 20th Annual Festival of Icons will take place on November 7, 2009. During the course of the year we host regular parish dinners (Fall, in February, in May/June for graduates). Twice monthly Fish Dinners will resume in January 2010, which are very popular and well attended by 350-400 non-Orthodox patrons (the proceeds are not used for normal operating expenses in the parish, but for special, designated projects). We are actively seeking to use these opportunities as a way of declaring the Gospel and the true Life of the Orthodox Church, namely, Jesus Christ.
- 3. Contemplative Life
 - At St. John's we strive to maintain a full complement of services based on the Church year, to be aware and participate in the inner life of the Church (via fasting, praying, giving of ourselves in Christ). Enacting a Charity of the Month plan has deliberately increased our giving to those in need. We participate in joint Orthodox services and projects (e.g., Vacation Church School) in our community with the parishes of other Orthodox jurisdictions, including public events such as the Mahoning River Blessing at Theophany. We pray the God will continue to enable to grow in His grace to behold His face always in His everlasting Kingdom.
- **Holy Assumption Church Canton - 1958 Priest Stacey Richter**
- **Holy Trinity Church Parma - 1963 Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky**
 - Holy Trinity Church Parma, OH activities from Jan 1 through September 30, 2009
 - Home blessings Jan. 6-25, Jan. 24 akathist for Unborn Life. Choir caroled nursing homes. Annual meeting decision to raze the rental home. Decision to install BOSE sound system. Installation of council: six persons retained, six new members. Orthodoxy Sunday vespers at St. Sava's. Fr. Vladimir spoke at St. Sergius RO Church retreat: Great Lent-Pathway to Pascha. Service of Healing and Anointing at St. Sergius Church. Two youth retreats with sleep-overs. Pre-sanctified liturgies each Wed-Fri through Great Lent. Good Friday-Paschal matins tomb watch, reading of Psalms. Blessed food baskets [20] distributed to all shut-ins. Choir Bright Friday dinner dance. St. Thomas Sunday grave blessings. Memorial Day requiem at St. Theodosius Cemetery. Three special all-parish education days through the church school year. Meeting with Joseph Kormos: Evaluating evangelism and outreach. 100th anniversary Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter & Paul, Lorain. 40th anniversary observance of St. John Byzantine Catholic Church in Parma. Year-long foods, bread and bakery sales. One day youth and adult conference in July: The Ark and the Theotokos [youth] Feasts of the Mother of God [adult]. Youth Group activities: canoe trip at Mohican river, clean-up at Marcha Monastery, Group traveling to Mission Mexico, Family evenings after Saturday vespers with religious topics.
- **St. Andrew Church Maple Heights 1968 Archpriest Emilian D Hutnyan**
- **St. Nicholas Church Mentor - 1974 Archpriest Andrew Clements**
- **St. Innocent Church Olmsted Falls - 1984 Priest Michael Butler**
 - St Innocent's continues to strive to love God and our neighbor. We suffered the loss of several households and our choir director at the beginning of the year; however,

we have gained a few families since then, and the number of our catechumens (which stands at 5 now) will likely grow as several inquirers join their ranks. We have as our new choir director a professional musician of exceptional qualities, who has been a real blessing to the worship. We still hope to acquire some 2 ½ acres of land adjacent to our property. We continue to offer church school and adult education before Liturgy on Sundays. One of our parishioners runs the local ecumenical food pantry and the congregation supports it with regular food donations. Once a month we provide a free meal to the community; this is a new program which we expect to grow in the coming months.

- **Monastery of St. John the Theologian Hiram 1981 Archimandrite Alexander, Abbot**
- **St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church Camp and Retreat Center, Very Rev. John Memorich, Priest-in-charge**
 - St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church Camp ran two very wonderful camping sessions for children throughout the region and again hosted the FOCA's Junior Olympics program. Much of the credit to this year's success was due to the efforts of co-director's Subdeacon Daniel and Catrina Kovalak. This is the second year since the Kovalaks have taken over responsibilities as directors and have done an excellent job at organizing and promoting the camp.
 - The theme of this year's three-week program was, "The Light of Christ." The first session was for children ages 7 – 11, and ran from June 28 through July 4. Fr. Jonathon Cholcher was the resident priest with 45 children participating.
 - The second session, July 5 through 11, was for children aged 12 – 16. I was the resident priest during this second week of camp with 18 kids participating.
 - The third week, July 12 through 18, was the week of Junior Olympics. 53 kids participated during this week with Fr. Daniel Matthewson as spiritual advisor.
 - Each week of camp consisted of concrete spiritual grounding with daily vespers and matins being served in the chapel, prayers before and after every meal, and at least one hour of religious education class during the day's program. A liturgy was also celebrated during the course of each week – resulting in one of my greatest joys during the summer: celebrating the Feast of St. Vladimir in a chapel dedicated to his memory with so many children enthusiastically singing the liturgy – and then processing through the camp blessing all of the buildings and cabins as they sang his tropar!
 - Besides being utilized for youth camping, our facility is also a popular site for parishes who wish to use it for picnics, cook-outs, day retreat, and is also rented for family reunions. If any parish of the diocese would like further information about our facilities or our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me at (440) 526-5192.

