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MINNEAPOLIS DEANERY
VERY REVEREND THADDEUS WOJCIK - DEAN

Thanks be to God that our Deanery has been blessed by God with many many blessings throughout the past year.

St. Nicholas, (Chisholm, MN) St. Nicholas is struggling to stay afloat. Mary Yachwak has not attended since she broke her ankle early this year. Thankfully, we have some Greek families that attend, however, they are gone most of the summer due to their businesses in restaurants, etc. They usually do attend from Fall until early Summer, but usually come in late. We have a family with 4 children attending. The mother is a member of our church; however, the father attends St. Basil's. The children usually attend with their mother and I am in the process of developing a Church School curriculum. I have already had a few sessions with the children using the Orthodox Study Bible. We have a potential new member who will be moving to Hibbing and joining our church. He is a convert that has been doing his studies with Fr. Nathan Kroll. He will be instrumental in our St. Nicholas celebration that is tentatively scheduled for December 1st.

Holy Myrrhbearers Mission, (St. Cloud, MN) If liabilities are better thought of as opportunities, then the three old furnaces (which had kept our turn-of-the-century Neo-Gothic building warm) gave us a great opportunity when they began to fail. We decided at our annual meeting in January to purchase three, new, high-efficiency units. At a cost exceeding \$12,000, it was a really big, scary step. With God's beneficence, we were blessed with an interest free loan from a parishioner, as well as a matching grant which ended up totaling \$6,000. Within 5 months of installation, we've been able to pay back 80% of the debt. On tap for the coming year is follow-through on two resolutions: to improve our website (through which many visitors have found us), and to develop a business plan for our bookstore.

***Christ the Savior Mission, (Anoka, MN).** This last year was a year of profound growth at Christ the Savior Mission, Anoka. In the first year in the its new building (a renovated convenience store) average attendance increased by close to fifty percent. Christ the Savior Mission been blessed with a number of new families and continues to draw a steady flow of visitors. The most immediate challenge, one not fully anticipated a year ago, is that the mission is close to outgrowing its new space. A good problem to be sure. But a challenge nevertheless.

St. Herman, (Minneapolis, MN). God has blessed St Herman's with a solid core of faithful dedicated to the way of the Church. We enjoyed a rich Pascha and blessed Pascha season, highlighted by receiving an icon of the Blessed Theotokos, produced by the

monks of Visoki Decani Monastery in Kosovo. Fr Paul had commissioned the icon when he visited the monks on an IOCC study trip last September. She has been placed in the middle of the nave and blesses our prayers with her beautiful presence. The summer months have not been idle. We have been able to offer many opportunities for spiritual formation and education at St Herman's: Ex Libris on Sunday mornings, when parishioners gather together before the Divine Liturgy and share reviews of books they've read from our library; Adult Education classes on Wednesday evenings; a class on Greek basics and beyond that meets once a week has drawn a nice number of students, and offers another opportunity to uncover insights from the biblical text that one would miss in translation. The Vespers service, not only on Saturday but also on Wednesday, together with the Matins service on Tues and Fri mornings has proved the richness of our Orthodox prayer Tradition and has enriched our parish life. We hope to begin serving Vigil more frequently on Saturdays when the New Church Year begins. St Herman's has launched a website, thanks to the excellent services of Orthodox Web Solutions. Visit us at www.sthermanmpls.org! Our liturgical year will come to an appropriate climax with our second annual pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction during the first week of the Dormition fast. About 20 parishioners will travel to the monastery to stay for several days, working and helping the mothers and sisters prepare their grounds for the hundreds of guests they receive on the celebration of their patronal feast day. Rooting the parish life in a vibrant relationship with a sound monastic community has manifested many spiritual dividends, seen and unseen. Finally, Fr Paul and his family are looking forward to what Fr Paul will assure you is a *much deserved* vacation the end of August.

St. Mary's Cathedral, (Minneapolis, MN Holy Trinity) Major renovations to the parish center took place during this period and include an elevator for handicap accessibility, air-conditioning, and new windows on both levels along the entire street side of the center. A large new washroom was added at the Cathedral. The fourth and final phase of the restoration project, addressing the interior of the Cathedral and including the iconographic program, is currently being developed with an eye to beginning work in early 2008. The 'Natural Church Growth' program has concluded the phase of parish-wide discussion groups and information gathering. One of our 2006 - 2007 seminarians, Fr Richard Flom from St Tikhon's, has been attached to the Cathedral and will begin service in the community in the fall. Seminarian Nicholas Hubbard (entering his second year at St Vladimir's) has been active in the parish this summer, along with our seminarian intern John Murray (entering his third year at St Tikhon's). Nine adults will have been received into Orthodoxy by the end of the summer. Fr Andrew has been active in the implementation and administration of the national OCA Seminarian Internship Program. Over the summer he also led a parish retreat in Bozeman, MT, gave a talk at the altar feast of the Santa Rosa , CA parish, and delivered a paper at the Parish Life conference in Arlington, VA (of which he was also co-host, as chair of the OCA Department of Pastoral Life Ministries).

(St. Paul, MN) We are completing one year since the ordinations of Dn. Bohdan Melnychenko and Fr. Bill Neumann, both from within our community, and the

transformation brought to the parish life by having multiple clergy has been palpable in every way, and has greatly enhance parish life and morale. When Fr. Bill finally finishes his stint as stay-at-home dad that has allowed him to be attached at Holy Trinity, he will be sorely missed.

Both finances and membership have remained relatively stable. A major new Pantocrator ceiling mural was installed after Pascha. We currently rejoice in having one seminarian.. Chris Maciolek... and his family entering their second year at St. Tikhons. They have been home at Holy Trinity for the summer. In addition to the usual Sunday cycle, we continue with three regular weekday services, which are sparsely but steadily attended; there has been regular ministry to the many people in the neighborhood who show up on Sundays looking for food assistance, but the possible evolution of that ministry is still in its early stages of discernment.

St. Elizabeth Mission, (Eagan, MN). The following article about St Elizabeth appeared in the local newspaper:

“St. Elizabeth Orthodox Mission, the first church of its kind in the southern suburbs, broke ground on its new building last week in Eagan.

The ceremony drew the church’s leader, Archbishop Job of Chicago, as young adults and children from the community led a procession with a 13-foot cross to the site where the church will be built. The cross was planted on the site of the new church, along with a stone blessed with holy oil and four smaller crosses that were installed to mark the four corners of the church.

St. Elizabeth Mission is part of the Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America, which is based in Chicago and includes approximately 80 parishes, monasteries, missions and other institutions. The church is named for St. Elizabeth, who was like a Russian Mother Teresa during that country’s revolution, said Rev. Marc Boulos. “She was very dedicated to homeless and women’s issues,” he said. “[She and her nuns] were really geared toward social justice.”

One of the three branches of world Christianity, Boulos said the Orthodox Church is a fellowship of administratively independent local churches united in faith, sacraments, and canonical discipline. It is similar to the Catholic church of many years ago, when it was more traditional, he said. “There’s a lot of solemn liturgies and detailed ritual that holds a lot of meaning for us,” he said. “The faith of the Orthodox Church is expressed in her ancient worship, which immerses participants in the reality of the biblical story.”

Boulos said the church is a diverse community united in faith and service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“We welcome anyone and everyone to join us for worship,” he said. The church came to Eagan because there were no others like it in the southern suburbs, he said.

“We had really no presence in that area,” he said. In 2003, St. Elizabeth began holding services every Sunday in the chapel of Klecatsky and Sons Funeral Home, located at 1580 Century Point in Eagan. Only five people attended its first liturgy, he said.

“Today we have roughly 50 people from the community,” he said.

St. Elizabeth recently acquired land across the street from Klecatsky and Sons on which the new church will be built. The 4,800 square-foot building will be constructed as a traditional Byzantine church, with a dome over the center of the church resting on a base in the shape of a cross. Another dome will sit over the sanctuary that houses the altar.

The building is expected to be completed by next Easter. St. Elizabeth Mission seeks to build inroads with the local community through Christian education and charitable ministries, Boulos said. As part of its ministry to the local community, St. Elizabeth Mission sponsors the Minnesota Bible Lecture Series (MNBLs), a semiannual educational program in the Twin Cities area. For more information on MNBLs, visit www.mnbles.org. For more information on St. Elizabeth Orthodox Mission, visit www.seocc.org.

Holy Trinity Church, (Clayton, WI) Holy Trinity in Clayton suffered a break-in last fall, with the safe being stolen that contained our chalices and liturgical items. The suspect was later arrested, and all the items were thankfully returned. We have had several community outreach events this year, including a Thanksgiving choir performance, a free dinner for all area senior citizens, and in-home Bible studies with many non-Orthodox attendees. We also are sending our 4th annual mission team to the Hogar orphanage in Guatemala City this November. Our Youth Group hosted two dinners to raise money for IOCC and for Cancer victims. The Youth Group also took classes and were certified by the American Heart Association in first aid.

St. Mary's Church, (Cornucopia, WI). St. Mary's in Cornucopia continues to have seasonal worship in the spring, summer, and fall, with one Liturgy per month and Reader's Services on the other Sundays.

***Holy Cross Mission, (St. Croix Falls, WI)** We continue to live "one day at a time" at Holy Cross and prayerfully place our trust in God to grow this mission community. On Sunday, November 5, 2006, we moved from Saint Croix Falls, WI to Chisago Lakes High School in Lindstrom, MN. By invitation, we moved to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chisago City, MN on Sunday, May 27, 2007. We now meet in an beautiful space in the church basement with our own entrance, kitchen, bathrooms and Sunday School space. We have extensively updated our website. We held two successful outreach events at the Home and Garge: www.hcomn.org. den Show in March, and Karl Oskar Days in July, both in Lindstrom, MN. Our annual pledge drive received over \$34,000 in pledges with 100% of the members pledging! We have a new Catechumen who will be attending the MEOCCA Cooperative Catechism with her husband this Fall. We expect to Chrismate her in December and her children next summer and, hopefully, her husband too. As of August 12, we have reincorporated in the state of Minnesota. In September, our priest will lead a six-week marriage seminar, *Fighting for Your Marriage* as an outreach to the wider community. We continue to support an adopted family with monthly offerings through Trinity Mission in St. Paul, MN. In January, our priest and his daughter served as missionaries to Hogar Rafael Ayau in Guatemala with a group from St. Mary's Greek in Minneapolis, MN. Fr. Robert went down to Guatemala again in May with a group from South River, NJ. Another trip is planned for Theophany 2008. We have a member actively involved in Orthodox Prison Ministries of Minnesota which has had great success in the metro-area prison facilities. We also continue to support the Total Lifecare Centers of Minnesota and Wisconsin financially and with a member-liaison to the center. Glory to God for all things!

St. John the Baptist, (Stanley, WI) St. John the Baptist, Stanley, WI. The parish continues celebrating the Divine Liturgy on the second Sunday of the month. The small rural parish has a loyal group of parishioners who keep the physical plant in excellent shape.

Holy Assumption, (Lublin, WI). Holy Assumption, Lublin, WI The parish is in high gear preparing to celebrate its centennial anniversary in August 2008. In the past year the Church has been air-conditioned, the kitchen area of the social hall has been remodeled, and considerable landscaping has been done. There are two catechumens.

St. Andrew Chapel, (Minocqua, WI). St. Andrew's once again is searching for a location that will be permanent after there location in a former Church was scheduled for asbestos cleanup.

St. Nicholas Mission, (Pella, IA.) Outreach continues well. We now seem to be a fairly well known and accepted part of the city's culture. Some highlights:
We have a family of five who were enrolled as catechumens during Great Lent.
Fr. Bartholomew gave a presentation on Orthodox Tradition of Praying with Icons after Pella's "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" kick-off service at 2nd Reformed Church.
Fr. Bartholomew gave a guest lesson on Orthodox worship at the local Christian high school religion class. At least twice a year, our Church serves *Molieben* services at three local nursing homes, part of Pella Ministerial Association annual schedule for the nursing home worship. We had numerous visitors at Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday and later Holy Week services and Paschal services. Guests just about equaled, or even outnumbered, parishioners at more than one service. Fr. Gregory Grivna visited and gave a presentation about the historic Orthodox Church of Georgia and also presented to our mission a beautiful icon of St. Nicholas from Georgia. He also concelebrated with Fr. Bart.

St. Peter the Aleut Church, (Minot, ND) There are no significant changes, unfortunately we lost 5 parishioners during the last year, 2 passed away, 3 moved to Minnesota. everything else is status quo here at ST Peters in Minot, ND.