

MICHIGAN DEANERY REPORT

TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 4-6, 2010

ARCHPRIEST ANDREW YAVORNITZKY, DEAN

HOLY ASCENSION - ALBION, MICHIGAN- PRIEST JOSHUA FRIGERIO

During this past Paschal season the parish received 15 catechumens – a record number for the community. Many of them are the fruit of nearby college outreach and OCF activity. Sadly, most of them will finish school and move away with their families, some of them to seminary. Recent student/catechumen/seminarians include Fr. Andrew Cuneo newly assigned in Santa Rosa , California and Deacon Maximos Cabay, a St. Vladimir's senior who was ordained to the priesthood in September. Two others began their seminary studies this fall – one at St. Tikhon's and one at Holy Cross.

The planned altar consecration this summer was postponed due to the passing of Archbishop JOB. It will be rescheduled when our new bishop is in place.

HOLY TRINITY – DETROIT, MICHIGAN – PRIEST LEV KOPISTIANSKY

August 2009: Parish field trip to Holy Dormition Monastery Rives Junction to celebrate patronal feast. This is an annual event for the parish if the Feast does not fall on a Sunday.

Sept. 2009: Sisterhood voted to acquire new Altar Covers for the temple. Beautiful colors were chosen and will arrive at the appropriate festal times of the ecclesiastical year.

Oct. 2009: Our Pokrova sisterhood Patronal banquet was held at the Gazebo Banquet Center, Warren, MI. Proceeds from this wonderful annual event were used to support seminarians who are in need of financial assistance.

Nov. 2009: Our church school children always remember our parish shut-ins at this time of the year.....Thanksgiving! Hand made greeting cards with a group photo of the church school children were sent out. Our elderly really enjoy knowing that they are not forgotten.

Dec. 2009: Our Church School Nativity Play/Yolka included a youth choir sing-a-long this year. This is a well supported event in which all children get a gift at the end of the presentation.

Jan. 2010: Our Brotherhood hosted a parish New Year's celebration in our hall on the first Sunday in January. It was a pot-luck dinner with a wine and beer taste testing!

Feb. 2010: Our annual Holy Trinity Souper Bowl Party was held on NFL super bowl Sunday. Proceeds from this event were donated to the I.O.C.C. this year.

March 2010: A Pysanki making class was held in March. It is geared toward the youth of the parish but many adults do enjoy attending.

May 2010: We did have a first confession class this year. We honor these children during our church school end of year luncheon. Orthodox prayer books were given to all the children.

June 2010: Fr. Lev, Mat. Victoria and other parishioners attended the Parish Life Ministries Conference held in Berea, OH. Wonderful fellowship and what was learned was brought back to the parish for spiritual health and good order for parish life.

Aug. 2010: The Sisterhood sponsored a tour to the local St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery in Harper Woods, Michigan. Over 20 people attended.....some experiencing a monastery for the first time! The tour included a delicious lunch in the Royal Eagle Restaurant, which is located on the monastery grounds.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHEDRAL – DETROIT, MICHIGAN – VACANT

Thankfully, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated each Sunday by Fr. Alexandru Partioc, a retired priest in the O.C.A. Romanian Diocese. His availability has been a great blessing for the parish. The number of faithful remains constant, with a Sunday attendance in the 30's.

Last October, the Cathedral hosted the tenth anniversary celebration of the Vista Nuevos Head Start program in its facilities. A full day of community based activities, such as educational and interactive displays from various city and social agencies, introductory tours of the Church and facilities, a bake sale, and fun activities for children. By all accounts it was a great success for both the Vista Nuevos and the Cathedral community. The cooperation and togetherness factors were enriching for all involved.

On a Sunday afternoon last December "Cookies with Santa" brought neighborhood children into the hall to visit and have their pictures taken with Santa and his helpers. Plenty of cookies, hot chocolate and coffee, gifts for the children, and a penny social rounded out the event for the children and their families. There are plans to make this year's "Cookies" day bigger and better.

The Detroit Historical Society included the Cathedral on a "Historic Places of Worship" church tour this past July. The dean offered a presentation on the history of the parish and the several of the faithful provided a delicious luncheon for all of the guests in the parish hall. The organizers have already expressed an interest in repeating the visit next year.

About once a month, at the parish coffee hour, volunteer families host a dinner. The social interaction is greatly enjoyed by all. There are plans for a larger, 103rd anniversary celebration and dinner on November 14th.

Three members are signed up for the Archbishop JOB memorial mission trip next summer.

When it rains it pours, literally. The remodeled parish hall was flooded by sewer back-ups during summer thunderstorms, necessitating significant repairs to the lower hall and kitchen area. This put the facility out of commission for both the parish and for any (few and far between) rentals. Working with the Detroit city inspectors is always a bureaucratic challenge. High insurance deductibles add to the already financially stressed community.

The parish did manage to remit some assessment money to the diocese this year, yet the extreme debt and looming winter energy expenses, however, still make optimism difficult. All are grateful to God for another year of sustenance.

ST. DEMETRIUS – JACKSON, MI - ARCHPRIEST DUSAN KOPRIVICA

In celebration of the Patronal Feast day of St. Demetrius last October, we collected over \$500.00 to provide “Scholastic Books” for underprivileged children grades K through 3 at a local elementary school. They were greatly appreciated by children and staff.

We sponsored a County-wide "Writing Contest" for all children grades 6-12, with \$600 of prize money. One of our parishioners lost his wallet 50 years ago in our Downtown Movie Theater. They were renovating the theater and found it in a wall they were taking out. Our parishioner didn't realize he lost it 50 years ago nor did he know how it got there. Thus, wanting to have a good story, and some nice publicity in the paper, we had a writing contest: "The Mystery of the Walled-in Wallet.” Over a hundred students participated, and the finalists came to church for Sunday Liturgy where we announced and read the winning stories. The First place winner then donated half of his winnings to our parish’s Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. This was a really different experience our church had for community outreach.

- Canned goods for the local food bank are continually collected and delivered – at least a laundry basket full weekly.
- Parishioners help with food preparation for the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction’s Feast Day celebration.
- Six parishioners and a friend will participate in the Archbishop JOB memorial mission trip to Project Mexico next summer.
- Annual participation in the local Relay for Life cancer walk, including donations and an on site panihida for those who have lost their lives to cancer.
- A new, handicapped accessible parish hall is in the works. Completion target is Pascha 2011.
- We patiently await the two additional frescoes in process for the temple.

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION – LIVONIA, MI – ARCHPRIEST MICHAEL MATSKO

This year marks the 24th anniversary of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, MI. The parish began in 1996 as a mission effort of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit, the Mother Church of Orthodoxy in Michigan. God has continued to bless us to be able to witness to the Gospel in the western suburbs of Detroit.

Through the generosity of our faithful parishioners, we were able to pay off our Capital Campaign loan and to add additional Iconography to beautify our holy church. The balloon

payment on our church mortgage matured, and we were able to refinance it on a ten year note with a considerable lower interest rate

Last fall we began to prepare some of our property for a vegetable garden. During our spring Lenten retreat for our youth, we had them plant seeds which were later transferred outdoors and planted in our garden. We have had a bountiful harvest of many different types of vegetable which our parishioners and neighbors are enjoying; and some are being given to those who are in need in our area. We had an outside Garden Party after Vespers where families prepared a number of wonderful dishes using the garden vegetables along with a wonderful steak dinner. We thank God for this blessing.

One of our young men is working on his Eagle Scout project. As a part of this project, he has created an area in front of our church for a Memorial Garden, which includes paver bricks, benches and some flowers. It is our dream, if God so wills, to expand this project in the future to include an outdoor Chapel with bell tower.

We have had several groups visit and tour our church this year. Sixty children plus their parents and teachers from Our Lady of Good Counsel RC Church visited our church to learn about Orthodoxy. Also 15 adults from the local Methodist Church attended a Divine Liturgy as part of their adult education program.

Our Youth Groups were able to raise enough money for scholarships which enabled a number of them to attend vacation church camps in several different locations. The "Pizza, Pop and Talk" with Father continues to be popular with our Youth; and we included an Adult session which was well received. We will continue these events in the future.

Dn. Jacob has been meeting with our Alter Servers teaching them the basics of serving in the Alter and mentoring them in the spiritual life of the Church. They have enjoyed several fellowship outings with their parents over the course of the year.

We have a Red Cross blood drive scheduled for the fall as part of our continuing Community Outreach. John Sedor was able to go on a Missionary outreach to South America with the aid of donations from several of our parishioners. The parish continues its efforts of "going green;" Removing plastic items from our coffee hours and social events, recycling and trying to conserve energy.

Christian Education continues to be a priority for our parish. The women's bible study, men's Christian education study, which could lead to Late Vocations Study for those eligible candidates; and the Wednesday night Inquirer's program are ongoing.

Our Church School staff continues to conduct our summer Vacation Bible School with their traditional visit to Holy Dormition Monastery.

Six infants were baptized into the Church; and eight adults were received through Chrismation.

ST. MARK – ROCHESTER HILLS, MI – ARCHPRIEST ANDREW YAVORNITZKY

With the arrival of a handful of transfer parishioners, St. Mark became the host parish for a long standing Christmas charitable outreach. Last December, over 100 families received groceries and gifts which were purchased, bagged and personally delivered by our members and many of our Orthodox friends, truly a blessing for all. Similarly, our Project Mexico team from 2009 volunteered for a “Pantry Partners” drive to aid St. Innocent Orphanage. Some 44 cases of food and supplies were shipped out this July.

In addition:

- The coveted “Golden Shoe Award” was reclaimed by our members for having the highest per capita collection during the annual Rochester CROP Walk.
- Collections for IOCC, the Rochester Neighborhood House, OCMC Support a Mission Priest, and monthly collections for a disable Orthodox priest.
- We prepared and served our annual MCREST dinner for the homeless.
- We regularly host Red Cross blood drives.
- On Christmas day following the Divine Liturgy we sing carols and deliver gifts to residents of the nursing home which served as our first mission location 30 years ago.
- The Church school prepares and delivers Pascha baskets to the parish shut-ins.
- We hosted the participants of the 2010 FOCA basketball tournament for liturgical services on St. Thomas Sunday.
- Eight members visited Project Mexico in 2009. 23 are slated for the Archbishop JOB Memorial Mission trip.
- Last year’s missionaries applied for and received a parish health grant (our parish’s second) to produce mission centered Church school materials for teens and pre-school students. Materials are currently being printed.

2010 is the thirtieth anniversary year for St. Mark Church. Due to the passing of Archbishop JOB, the planned consecration of the temple was postponed. We look forward to having our new Archpastor visit and celebrate the service.