

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
53rd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
Broadview Heights, Ohio
October 6th and 7th, 2014

I wanted to report to you on my activities since I began actually serving as the Administrator of the Diocese on August 1st of this year.

First of all, every Sunday since August 1st has been filled with parish visitations either in the Chicago area or out of state. During the week, I have also made visitations on occasions when a Great Feast has been held or a Major Saint Day, or if I have been invited to a parish to just meet with me during the week. I have found all the visits to be quite enjoyable and I am quite impressed with the clergy of the diocese, their hard work and dedication, and the warmth and friendliness I have been greeted with on the part of members of all parishes I have visited.

I have also have been able to meet with many of the clergy of our diocese through deanery meetings. I have met with the dean of the Michigan Deanery, the Indianapolis Deanery, the Cleveland Deanery, Chicago Deanery, and Minneapolis Deanery. Unfortunately, I have yet to meet with the Kansas City Deanery due to scheduling problems. For those clergy I have not met, I have contacted by phone to introduce myself to them. I may not get to everyone by the assembly and for that I do apologize.

By virtue of being here at the chancery, it has given me the opportunity to facilitate a number of correspondences that needed to be written regarding releases, transfers, or assignment/attachment of clergy to various parishes and discussion of clergy assignments in general. This has involved having regular communication with the deans, chancellor, our diocesan secretary, and His Grace Bishop Alexander to facilitate the dissemination of this information in a proper and timely manner. It has been a real pleasure in being able to work with everyone in these matters. I am appreciative of their patience with me as I continue to learn what my duties are, and most importantly to just listen to others right now. I can see where being here to handle these daily tasks has been of help to those that were perhaps waiting quite a while for action to be taken in some of the above areas.

Finally, I spent two and a half weeks in August preparing Daily Logs to introduce myself to the rectors, and priests-in-charge of the diocese. I left it up to their discretion if they wanted to make this information available to their parishioners. My intent was to share with you who I am to help you make a prayerful decision on who you desire to nominate at the special assembly; as I am the main candidate that is being presented by His Grace Bishop Alexander for nomination.

I am unable to address the need for clergy awards to be presented at parish visitation. I apologize for those who have been waiting for this to happen. I ask for your patience in this area. Depending on what happens at the Assembly, hopefully we can make some progress in rectifying this.

We also have three or four people who are getting very close to petitioning to be ordained to the diaconate. Once again what happens on October 7th could have an impact on whether this will happen sooner or later.

At the time of this writing I actually don't know what is going to happen on October 7th; so it is difficult for me to look beyond that date. There are two things I can conclude though based on my time here so far. One is that this is not the same diocese I left in 2007 when I went to serve St. George Orthodox Cathedral in the Bulgarian Diocese. Secondly I need to do a lot of listening to all of you and learn from you in order to better understand the current dynamics of the Midwest. This is in order for me to know how to best oversee the life of the diocese if I do end up becoming your bishop.

We will see what happens...

Your servant in Christ



The unworthy Archpriest Paul Gassios
Administrator