REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN DEANERY TO THE 55th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST OCTOBER 11, 2016

Following a deliberate effort over nearly three decades, all shared activities of the Michigan Deanery parishes are also shared with other OCA and pan-Orthodox parish communities. The four parishes in the metropolitan Detroit area (Holy Transfiguration in Livonia, Holy Trinity in Detroit, St. Mark in Rochester Hills and Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit) worship, outreach, celebrate and minister with others in the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. The COCC, under the auspices of the St. John Chrysostom clergy brotherhood, is also the umbrella organization for the Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (OCWM) and the Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO). There is also a FOCUS North America presence and, most recently, a local chapter of Zoe for life. Deanery parishes and personnel are among the leading participants in the collective activity.

The two western parishes (Holy Ascension in Albion and St. Demetrius in Jackson) also share their lives with other Orthodox Christian parishes from Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Battle Creek with the monastery of the Holy Dormition (Romanian OCA) in Rives Junction often being the focal point.

In the fall of last year a discussion began among His Grace, Bishop Paul, the Michigan Deanery Dean, Fr. Paul Albert, and others. The Cathedral Parish of Ss. Peter and Paul in Detroit had been offering its facilities to the Orthodox Detroit Outreach each Sunday for the purpose of serving a meal to impoverished and homeless neighborhood members. Up to one hundred souls were gathering each Sunday at the Cathedral hall to be fed a hot meal.

What if we could feed them more than bread?

With the blessing of Bishop Paul and the support of both the Diocesan Council and Mission committee a "Missionary Outreach" in the Southwest Detroit neighborhood surrounding the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul was begun. Combined funding from the Diocese of the Midwest, the parishes of the Michigan Deanery and the Cathedral parish of Ss. Peter and Paul was gathered to provide a more stable pastoral presence in the person of Fr. Paul Albert. This unprecedented (for us) effort has been in operation for the past nine months. Fr. Paul's report on the first seven months follows this document.

We in the Michigan Deanery are excited by this opportunity. We ask for your prayers and support as it continues.

V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky, Michigan Deanery Dean

Seven Month Report to Detroit Deanery/Diocese of the Midwest, OCA A pastoral perspective on the missionary work in SW Detroit Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Christian Cathedral 3810 Gilbert St. Detroit, MI

January-July 2016

Your Grace, Bishop Paul, Deanery clergy, Diocese clergy & faithful

Glory to Jesus Christ.

First I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bishop Paul, our Detroit Area Deanery parishes, and all who have so graciously extended your prayers and financial support towards revitalizing the inner-city missionary vision and work which is unfolding at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral in Detroit. For those who may not be aware, this urban parish is the oldest Orthodox Church community in the state of Michigan, and the mother church of many surrounding parishes. It has been struggling for several years with membership decline and aging facilities.

In January of 2016 His Grace, Bishop Paul sent me into the parish with a clear objective. I was not assigned to resuscitate a waning community. Rather, our vision has been to see if the existing parish can find a transformative and repurposed vision as an inner city missionary presence in SW Detroit.

To this end, the diocese has "seeded" this project by providing half of my pastoral stipend for 2016, and the Deanery has provided 25% of the same, with the parish providing 25%. It is our hope that this help and support will continue for 2017.

Please keep in mind that I began this assignment in January 2016 after the parish had gone about 8 years without a pastoral presence, being serviced during that period by an elderly Romanian Priest who was primarily there to serve Sunday Liturgy. The parish had been in survival mode for 8 years, consisting of about 30 adults, who were concentrating on maintaining the campus buildings and paying down debt.

The first seven months serving as the parish & missionary priest has been focused on ministering to the few and faithful remnant, preaching and teaching, refreshing their spirit. We are gently beginning to articulate (through the core leadership of Parish Council and in Sunday homilies) a sense of this RENEWED VISION of the cathedral becoming a missionary presence in the inner city. Our missionary focus has also been formative and edifying for the missionary participants joining us from the Deanery parishes. I cannot thank Fr. Andrew Yavornitzky enough (dean of Detroit Deanery) for his help and support. He, along with Bishop PAUL have been prayerfully committed to helping us clarify and articulate the vision of a cooperative Deanery missionary project in SW Detroit.

During these seven months, I have also been providing spiritual direction for Orthodox Detroit Outreach, a separate pan-Orthodox entity serving the neighborhood poor at the Sts. Peter & Paul Community Center adjacent to the Cathedral. ODO has a mission to help provide an opportunity for the Orthodox in the greater Detroit area to serve Christ in the poor. <u>Currently almost 20 Orthodox parishes in greater Detroit area (pan-jurisdictional) participate in our weekly Sunday Afternoon Meal ministries.</u>

During the first half of 2016 here is what we are seeing:

- 1) The spiritual life of the community is rekindling. We are gradually moving towards a healthier rhythm of liturgical/sacramental activity, keeping our small numbers in mind as to not begin with unrealistic expectations. One of the most encouraging experiences in this regard is the shared experience of celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy at the Lord's Table on Sunday, and then experiencing the extension and continuation of this Eucharistic celebration at the Sunday afternoon neighborhood meal. The rhythm and spiritual continuity of the day has been most edifying for our local "missionaries" who join us from the other Deanery parishes.
- 2) Community Center- part of our renewed core vision based on co-operative missionary outreach
 Our current ministries and programs residing at our parish campus include:

Orthodox Detroit Outreach-whose mission is to help provide for the faithful in the Greater Detroit area an opportunity to serve the poor.

Head Start Program serving our neighborhood youth as they prepare to enter school. **Kitchen Connect Program** providing opportunity for chef entrepreneurs; in affiliation with Eastern Market.

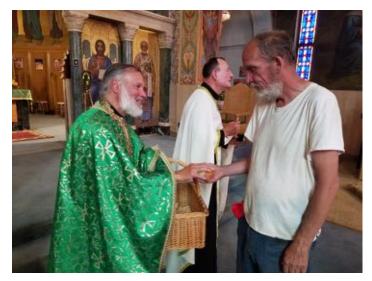
Keep Growing Detroit, a city wide Urban Agriculture Network has a hub at our Center for education and distribution to local community gardeners.

Zoe for Life provides guidance and help for pregnant women.

The Sunday afternoon meal at the Community Center usually hosts about 80-120 guests. Organized by Orthodox Detroit outreach, this ministry has been developing in our parish Community center for about four years.

An important observation to be offered is that over the past few years, the weekly gathering for the neighborhood meal has coalesced into a "community" where we pray with one another, and better know our neighbors. They also see the Sunday communal meal as "church" and are gradually becoming more at home with our faith and practices. The names of almost all of our neighborhood guests are at my holy Altar and are included in our ongoing prayers at Divine Services along with the parishioners.

Many of the typical parish ministerial concerns and activities also seem to apply as we minister with our neighbors: birth, death, sickness, suffering, issues with the children, physical and spiritual healing and comfort, visitation, etc. It seems to me that the Lord is drawing this group together so that we all might experience Him in our midst-especially where love is shared among us all. This unique neighborhood ministry is providing for the Orthodox volunteers a classroom in which we practice our theology and Faith is witnessed through works.



Plans for this Fall 2016-Spring 2017:

Capital Campaign targeting the greater Detroit business community and our mission friends and supporters. Target to build better awareness of our missionary presence and vision in SW Detroit; to raise money towards Community Center Ministry/facility Developments and some debt reduction as has been incurred for Community Center upgrades.

Vision for parish development:

Encouraging potential for next 5 year development plan

The church campus is in a very good location for inner city ministry. Neighbors in need are on foot, and the Church and Community Center are visible and accessible to many around us who need our help. Also, the area within a fifteen minute walk/drive around us holds a diverse demographic, representing potential growth. One of our lay leaders expressed this very well: "to see in the growing congregation a good representation of our neighborhood." This includes our 100 year-old neighborhood history (European Orthodox), homeless/low income neighbors, Spanish speaking neighbors, the thirty-something "Cork town" residents (educated, philanthropically and spiritually mindful, 'nones'- as non-church affiliated), and Wayne State students. Add to this mix our developing missionary team participants from surrounding Orthodox churches, joining us for their spiritual enrichment and salvation.

The reason future growth is possible: MISSION FOCUSED CONGREGATION

Celebrating our Incarnational theology: God is with us. We hope to be <u>vitally present</u> in the inner city with a clear and focused mission. As Orthodox Christian missionaries we will be present, witnessing our faith holistically as a sacramental /worshipping community, with a core vision focused the works of mercy, serving Christ in our neighbor.



Above: Sunday Meal

Top right: Community Garden **Bottom right:** Mission Weekend 2016

3) Overall financial snapshot of Sts. Peter & Paul campus facilities

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral community (includes church buildings and community center)

Average monthly Income towards operating costs:

Donations from members, missionaries, guests: \$6,550.00
Rental Income: School /Head Start \$4,700.00
Kitchen Connect/Hall Rentals/ministries \$4,500.00

\$15,700.00

Average monthly expenses towards operating costs:

All church/center overhead typical: \$12,000.00
Current Bond Payment \$4,600.00

- \$16,600.00

Average monthly net for Jan.-July 2016

-\$ 900.00 (average monthly loss)

Current Bank Balance of Unrestricted cash on hand for church operations: \$30,000.00

In addition to average monthly expenditures, we have expended from savings for non-reoccurring building repairs in 2016 (major roof replacements/repairs)

\$57,200.00

Moving forward from here:

When we began this missionary project in January 2016, it was self-evident that the parish numbers were below the long term financial survival threshold. As seen in the financial snapshot, the 35 adult members are almost "maintaining" the facilities, but incapable of sustaining a full time priest and the other necessities for the next stages of parish/missionary development. The current Bond Payments (\$4600/monthly) will be completed by the end of 2019, positively affecting our monthly budget.

Our initial vision included seeing the Deanery and Diocese provide financial help to the parish for a pastoral presence /priest to guide the missionary development at this juncture. This needs to continue, God willing and Diocese/deanery willing, for at least another few years.

Parish growth is essential, but requires, in our case, incremental steps towards that end.

The dynamics of parish growth and development will for us require repurposing of the parish core vision to be a missionary congregation whose campus facilities are dedicated to achieving the missionary purpose and ministries specific to that core vision. This will then be a missionary parish setting that others will want to join. We are actively working on this at present.

But there is crucial next step which we now need to take before we can construct this repurposed parish with a core vison of missionary community.

For 2017 this involves working with the deanery priests to ensure each deanery parish forms a "mission team" that would be committed to participating in Sunday morning worship at Sts. Peter and Paul, as well as the flow of the day into the afternoon neighborhood meal and ministries. Rhythm and regularity in this regard allows the missionaries to actually enter relationships with their fellow missionaries as well as our neighbors in need. This is the first step towards "community building" in our missionary setting.

This is the crucial next step for 2017: active mission teams in each parish from which at least two committed souls from each deanery parish would actively join us as founders and developers of our collective missionary project in SW Detroit. This will help the Sts. P &P missionary parish take an important next step in presenting a little more spiritually vital congregation to inquirers and guests. This will also help move the parish to the next step of financial stability, which is also an essential element of furthering the Church's mission in our setting. Lastly, the active and organized parish mission teams will provide an effective and proactive voice in their respective parishes. The missionary undertaking in SW Detroit will truly then become a Deanery and Diocese effort. If we can do this first in our own house (OCA) it may then be possible to look at another possible step in three to five years: seeing our Community Center become an Orthodox Christian Missionary Center in SW Detroit with a pan-Orthodox LOCAL governing board whose members comprise faithful from across the jurisdictions.

Our current and future mission: to provide the Orthodox in the greater Detroit area an opportunity to be a missionary in SW Detroit; to witness our faith holistically through a sacramental /worshipping community, with a core vision focused the works of mercy, serving Christ in our neighbor.



"For Christ's love compels us..." (2 Corinthians 5:14)

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Ascension Orthodox Church PO Box 367 810 Austin Av. Albion, MI 49224	
Clergy	
Fr Joshua Frigerio, rector. Fr. Deacon John Wesner. Fr Angelo Pepps (attached).
Committees/Societies	
n/a	
Since September 2015	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Mid-August annual Orthodox Family Camp a success. Annual project mexico great.	o mission trip was
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Fr. Angelo is trying to get a mission off the ground in Kalamazoo, 45 m OCF activities in neighboring colleges.	inutes to our west.
Major Challenges Faced	
Old building upkeep.	
Sin.	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017	
100th Anniversary to be commemorated at the feast of Ascension 2017.	

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count	43	45	50
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	60	60	70
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	45	45	50
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	20	20	25
Number of Catechumens	1	3	4
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms	2	4	5
Funerals	1	3	1
Marriages	2	0	2
Receptions into Orthodoxy	7	3	6
Church School/Number Enrolled	8	10	10
Adult Education/Number Participating	8	10	10

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 20500 Anglin Detroit, Michigan 48234	
Clergy	
Fr. Lev Kopistiansky	
Committees/Societies	
Holy Trinity Brotherhood	
Protection of the Virgin Mary Sisterhood	
Holy Trinity Choir	
Holy Trinity Church School	
Since September 2015 Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Hosted the Miraculous Icon the Righteous Anna with annointing Celebration of our parish Centennial Annual parish picnic.	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Feeding the homeless in Detroit in conjunction with the Orthodox De Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) locationFood prep and downto distribution.	
Church School Charity Souper Bowl Fundraiser Sundaygiving to loca well as the needy of the parish	l public charity as
Orthodox Choir of Metro DetroitBenefit Concertand Nativity Concert participation.	Choir/ singer
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry	
COCC Food Pantry weekly collection	

Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO) at Sts. Peter and Paul...Food prep, serving & clothing for the homeless.

Inquirers and Adult Church Education Class......held after Saturday vespers in the fall.

Major Challenges Faced

Need more manpower.

Still recovering from economically hard hit city.....

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017

Annual Protection of the Virgin Mary Sisterhood Banquet with installation of officers.

Hosting Miraculous Icon of the Righteous Anna in November.

Scheduled Bus Tour Stop by city of Ann Arbor seniors group.

Annual Parish Picnic.

Possible bus trip to St. Tiknon's Monastery.

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count			58
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance			65
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants			52
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance			7
Number of Catechumens			1
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms			5
Funerals			10
Marriages			3
Receptions into Orthodoxy			3
Church School/Number Enrolled			20
Adult Education/Number			6

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral	
3810 Gilbert Street	
Detroit, MI 48210	

Clergy

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Albert 4435 Candlewood Lane Sylvania, OH 43560 419-944-3995

Committees/Societies

Choir/sacred Music Ministry Greeter Ministry Outreach Ministries Ladies Altar Guild

Since September 2015

Highlights of Top Three Activities

Pastor assigned January 1, 2016 (for 8 years prior parish administered by deanery)
Repurposing of parish hall into Community Center-developing neighborhood ministries
June 25, 2016- Orthodox missions Weekend at our Community Center/parish
- ongoing development of coordinated pan-Orthodox urban missionary activities in SW Detroit

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Providing space in community center for ongoing neighborhood outreach ministries Orthodox Detroit Outreach ministries based at Sts. Peter & Paul Community Center

Food /clothing collection ongoing for neighbors in need Community Garden of the Saints adjacent to church

Major Challenges Faced

Redefining our parish vision as inner city mission Bond debt

Too few parishioners left in big aging campus

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017

Capital campaign – Fall 2016-Spring 2017 towards debt reduction and Community Center developments

Neighborhood Christmas outreach

2017 Orthodox mission Weekend at Sts. Peter & Paul Community Center

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count	33	33	36
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	25	25	35
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	22	22	33
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	0	0	6
Number of Catechumens			1
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms		1	1
Funerals	2	4	4
Marriages	1	1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy			0
Church School/Number Enrolled	4	4	7
Adult Education/Number Participating	0	0	8

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address	Photo
St Demetrius Orthodox Church, Jackson, Michigan	
Clergy	
Citigy	
Archpriest Fr. Dusan Koprivica	
Committees/Societies	
Sisterhood	
Sisternood	
Since September 2015	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Relay for Life 24 hour Cancer awareness walk Prison to Paradise Bus tours 40 days for Life prayer Vigil in front of Planned Parenthood abortion clinic Fr. Dusan receiving Jeweled Cross	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Sent two OCF missionaries to Vashon Island, WA, All-Merciful Savior Monas Help send 1 OCF student to Africa mission Raised \$10,000, for Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, restricted fund for priest salar Helped out with St. Mark's Christmas Basket event Cooked fund raising meal to help Jackson High School Students with no parents	ry budget, ODO
Major Challenges Faced	
Getting Sunday school teachers for Sunday School	
Getting more people to attend Saturday night Vespers	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017	

Help out with St. Mark's Christmas baskets Completion of ceiling frescos

Help out with ODO Orthodox Detroit Outreach

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count	50	49	48
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	55	52	58
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	45	40	50
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	6	6	6
Number of Catechumens	5	1	2
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms	2	1	3
Funerals	9	5	12
Marriages	0	0	1
Receptions into Orthodoxy	2	1	3
Church School/Number Enrolled	20	18	20
Adult Education/Number Participating	12	12	12

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church 36075 7 Mile Rd Livonia, MI 48152



Clergy

V Rev. Archpriest Michael E. Butler

Rev. Protodeacon Jacob Frimenko

Committees/Societies

Parish is organized on a ministry model with Pastoral & Parish Council oversight. Ministries include Parish Council, finance committee, youth group, church school, women's group, building & grounds, charitable outreach, choir, greeters, altar servers. Members are also actively involved with the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Detroit, Orthodox Christian Women of Detroit, the pan-Orthodox choir, the Fellowship of St Moses the Black, ZOE for Life

Since September 2015

Highlights of Top Three Activities

Inauguration of a new ZOE for Life chapter, now assisting 9+ women in Detroit, and garnering support from other local parishes.

Material and personal support of the expanded urban mission run by Orthodox Detroit Outreach. Welcoming several new families that have joined the parish.

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Monthly distribution of 200 Hygiene Kits to the homeless through St Dominic's, Detroit.

Monthly work with Orthodox Detroit Outreach feeding the homeless and supporting the urban ministry working out of SS Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit.

Parish established a chapter of ZOE For Life for the Detroit area and is currently assisting women through the urban ministry.

Annual support for several households at Christmastime through Livonia Good Fellows, 13 families this past year.

Regular support of our seminarian, Ryan Ferguson, at St Tikhon's, as well as annual support of an orphan through Project Mexico and an African missionary priest through OCMC. Incipient prison ministry.

Major Challenges Faced

Development of intentional discipleship and strategies for effective outreach.

Replacing the parking lot, which will be a major expense.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017

N/A

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count	163	153	162
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	135	130	137
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	N/A	110	115
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	N/A	23	29
Number of Catechumens	1	3	5
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms	4	5	6
Funerals	1	5	3
Marriages	2	2	2
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0	3	4
Church School/Number Enrolled	N/A	35	34
Adult Education/Number Participating	N/A	30	35

As of September 1, 2016

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 1

Parish Name and Address

St. Mark Orthodox Church 400 West Hamlin Road Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Photo at right: Blessing of hand made icons (prints and embellishments) for the high school Church school class, Spring 2016



Clergy

Very Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky

Committees/Societies

Various working ministry groups, Men's Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Since September 2015

Highlights of Top Three Activities

Contracted for the complete iconographic adornment of the temple.

Outside Speaker event with Fr. Stephen Freeman in May

In parish grant program for funding parishioner ministry initiatives

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Record number of recipients during the annual food basket distributions on the Saturday before Christmas

Beginning our 6th year of "Love Thy Neighbor" weekly food distribution and in-class tutoring at our neighborhood elementary school

Actively engaging and contributing to the Mission Outreach in SW Detroit

Major Challenges Faced

Always striving to learn how to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church in our current 21^{st} century suburban environment – then doing something about it.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017

Nothing special at this time

	As of September 1, 2014	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016
Supporting Membership Count	120	121	122
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	115	120	125
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	c. 85% of attendees	80% - 85%	80% - 85%
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	10 - 15	10 - 15	15 - 22
Number of Catechumens	2	4	3
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms	2	1	5
Funerals	1 member, 1 non member	1	0
Marriages	0	1	1
Receptions into Orthodoxy	1	0	3
Church School/Number Enrolled	31	41	
Adult Education/Number Participating	c.20	c.20	c.20