

# The Mother Maria of Paris Charitable Ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest

*Report for the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest, October 2019*

Submitted by Fr. Jonathan Lincoln  
jcalincoln@gmail.com ☼ (330) 933-6466

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ On May 24, 2019, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Midwest approved a proposal to form a charitable arm of the diocese, which is known as the Mother Maria of Paris Charitable Ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest (MMCM). The Diocesan Council also agreed to provide \$5,000 in seed money for MMCM's first project.
- ❖ MMCM's steering committee, comprised of clergy and lay members from throughout the diocese, has been seeking an Orthodox ministry in the Midwest to creatively fundraise for; if the first fundraising project is successful, it will be a model for future projects in other deaneries.
- ❖ Our vision for this ministry is to eventually have subcommittees in each deanery concurrently facilitating fundraising events, youth trips, and/or other service-oriented projects and events.

## A CHALLENGE

- ❖ The first fundraising project which MMCM sought to pursue was for a greenhouse for St. Herman House of Hospitality – FOCUS Cleveland's sobriety ranch, Spruce Farm. This project was recently discontinued, as the Cleveland area parishes are already doing much for St. Herman House.
- ❖ *Presently, MMCM's steering committee is seeking other Orthodox ministries to support through a fundraising event, gifts-in-kind, and/or volunteering.*

## AN OPPORTUNITY

- ❖ Ultimately, this ministry will not only find creative means of fundraising, but also explore new ways by which **we as a diocese** may serve those in great physical and spiritual need, in imitation of this ministry's patroness, St. Maria Skobtsova.
- ❖ Our current ideas are 1) supporting a pro-life Orthodox ministry in Chicago, and 2) planning youth service trips throughout the diocese, perhaps starting with Orthodox Detroit Outreach.
- ❖ Not only fundraising, but *engendering the value of Christian stewardship*, will be an enduring goal of the Mother Maria of Paris Charitable Ministry.

## JOIN US FOR A BRAINSTORMING MEETING!

☞ On **October 7<sup>th</sup>** at approximately **7:30pm**, the steering committee will be gathering at **Crowne Plaza's Aura Bistro and Lounge** to discuss the future direction of this ministry. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and share ideas about how we as a diocese can come together in service to our Lord and to our neighbors in need.