



Report to the 2021 Diocesan Assembly

Since the last annual meeting in October of 2020 up until August of this year, the Family Life website continued to operate without change or interruption—hosting Archbishop Paul’s weekly written reflections and broadcasting occasional Livestreams with His Eminence on topics relevant to family life. The target audience for this material has always been parents doing their best in the contemporary world to raise their children in the Orthodox Faith.

This August, His Eminence expressed to our committee that He was experiencing burn-out related to the pandemic and felt that his weekly reflections had been declining in quality. We encouraged him to take a break. Shortly thereafter, one of our committee members, Adam Lockridge (Holy Trinity, Overland Park, KS), asked for a blessing to step down, since he was moving with his family and would be attending a new Orthodox parish in a different Diocese.

The remaining committee member, Janet Ames (Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, MI), Archbishop Paul, and I agreed that we should attempt to grow the committee beyond finding a replacement for Adam, in an effort to inject new life into the mission of the website. To that end, we have invited Fr. Basil Ferguson (St. Thomas, Springfield, MO), Fr. Basil Crivella (St. John the Baptist, Warrenville, OH) and Mrs. Ruth Haller (Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, MI), and they have all accepted. We are scheduled to hold the first meeting of the newly-formed committee on Monday, October 18. God-willing, we will see this ministry of the Diocese begin to bear new fruit very soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fr. Jacob N. Van Sickle