

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY CHANCELLOR'S REPORT 2022

No one could have foreseen at the beginning of 2022, that our former hierarch, his Eminence Archbishop PAUL, would be diagnosed and succumb to brain cancer in a mere six weeks over the course of this past March and April. As his chancellor and his close friend for many years, I was particularly crushed as I witnessed, one declining step at a time, these sad events. What began with a stumble at his diocesan home in Burbank at the end of February was concluded with his falling asleep in the Lord at 3:00am on Pascha morning in April with his beloved sister, Agatha, by his side. He was interred at Dormition Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction Michigan adjacent to Archimandrite and Elder Roman (Braga).

I think that I speak for many others by saying that we will continue, as a diocese, to grieve this loss in an honorable way for many years to come. I continue to pray that the many good works of our former diocesan hierarch, his many ministries and projects, will continue as we move forward in these next few years. Memory eternal Vladyka Paul!

Even so, I am especially grateful to the firm and faithful support that both the chancery and the diocese has received, first by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON and second by His Grace, Bishop DANIEL of Santa Rosa, California, whose name has been put forward in nomination by the Holy Synod of the OCA as a candidate for our new diocesan hierarch. We will vote on his nomination at our upcoming Special Assembly on Monday, July 18th. Vladyka DANIEL has made himself present in every way possible to the needs of all our deaneries and parishes. I am grateful to him for his personal support as well, as we both seek to continue the work of the diocese after the death of Archbishop PAUL.

Our prayer is that the vision articulated by Archbishop PAUL in this diocese for the past seven years might come to bear even more fruit, a vision that included new departments and ministries focusing on music, family life, education, youth, diaconal vocation, and last but not least, outreach and evangelization. Vladyka PAUL's last year (2021) was given to the work of a new *diocesan strategic plan* that included both initiatives for a **more engaged laity** and the **furthering of priestly formation and continuing education**. Also included in all his work during 2021 were preparations for hiring a part-time development officer for the diocese (still in process).

I am especially grateful to the Deans of our deaneries whose quiet work "behind the scenes" goes unseen (and unrecognized) by most, and to those who work with

me in the diocesan chancery: to Philip Sokolov the bishop's secretary, to Robert Koncel, diocesan treasurer, to Fr. Herman Kincaid, diocesan secretary, to Fr. Alexander Koranda, diocesan communications director, to Mrs. Angie Kladis, diocesan bookkeeper, and to Justin Tatooles and Joseph Jenkins who have served as episcopal assistants these last two years.

Once again, I ask for your prayers as I seek, with God's help, to do the work assigned to me by the Lord for the upbuilding and the continued thriving of our God-protected Diocese of the Midwest.

Archpriest Paul Jannakos
Chancellor, Midwest Diocese, OCA