

# Midwest Family Ministry

([www.midwestfamily.org](http://www.midwestfamily.org))

Report to the delegates of the 2022 Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest, OCA

There has been no activity on the family website since before last year's assembly, when His Eminence Archbishop Paul, may his memory be eternal, on August 13, 2021 wrote that he would be taking a break from his weekly reflections. He was burnt out from dealing with the pandemic and felt that he needed time away to rethink the direction of the ministry and perhaps add one or two more people to the advisory committee to bring in fresh ideas. To that end, we recruited Frs Basil Ferguson and Basil Crivella, along with Mrs. Ruth Haller to join the committee and held three meetings with His Eminence before the end of 2021. Momentum was building toward a relaunch of the website when Vladyka's health began to deteriorate, and he did not manage to compose the reflection which was to restart a more varied cycle of posts with other regular contributors.

The family web page was a passion project of Archbishop Paul. Those of us who were privileged to work with him on it felt from the beginning that its principal virtue was to be an outlet for His Eminence to communicate directly with his flock about the challenges faced by families striving for fidelity to Christ in our present culture, a concern which he felt deeply. Here I wish to thank Stacy Sennott, our webmaster, and Janet Ames and Adam Lockridge, original members of the advisory committee, in addition to our newer members already mentioned.

My recommendation as ministry head is to close the website, while preserving an archive of Archbishop Paul's reflections and livestreamed discussions on the Diocesan webpage, and to terminate the ministry. If our next hierarch wishes to revive it in some fashion, that can easily be done under a new vision and title, which I would be happy to serve in whatever capacity I am called.

Respectfully submitted in XC,

Fr. Jacob N. Van Sickle