

**63<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST**  
**Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore, Ohio • 7-9 October 2024**

**I. Akathist & Opening Address: Monday, October 7, 2024.**

The Assembly opened with the greeting of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God and the Akathist at 6:00pm. His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL offered his report to the Assembly.

**II. PLENARY SESSION I: Tuesday, October 8, 2024.**

- A. Convened: 9:02am, with the singing of “O Heavenly King”.
- B. Call to Order: 9:04am.
- C. Election of Presidium: Archbishop DANIEL and Archpriest Herman Kincaid,
- D. Election of Secretariate: Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Priest Peter Simko, Mary Ann Bobulsky.
- E. Appointment of Nominating Committee: Priests Esteban Vazquez Daniel Greeson, JoAnn Lucs.
- F. Appointment of Credentials Committee:
- G. Appointment of Resolutions Committee: None.
- H. Appointment of Tellers: Deacons.
- I. Archpriest Alexander Rentel
  - a. Ordained by Archbishop Job to diaconate and priesthood, fondness for home diocese. Headed to Metropolitan Council. Considering making the Office Pastoral Life a full-time department with regular employees. Received two grants from the Eli Lilly Foundation that need to be managed.
  - b. Preparations for 2025 All American Council, Phoenix AZ. Celebration of Saint Olga of Alaska.
  - c. Youth will be integrated into the life of the council. His Beatitude calling on everyone to reflect on this moment in the life of the Orthodox Church in America. Asking for a text which will serve as an inspiration for this reflection.
- J. Opening of Nominations: Delegates were instructed to contact the nominating committee to submit names for election. Candidates must be present at the assembly, no self-nominations are accepted. Nominations will be vetted by His Eminence.
- K. Operational Reports:
  - a. Chancellor’s Report: See written report, published on diocesan website. Archpriest Herman is grateful for this new role in the Diocese. Recognizes Priest Esteban Vazquez, Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Robert Koncel. Looking forward to working with Subdeacon Dimitri Pletz as new treasurer. Visiting parishes and focusing on clergy health – rectors, priests, deacons and families.
  - b. Vice-Chancellor’s Report: Since the repose of Archbishop Paul, diocesan staff has had 100% turnover in two years. Restructuring plan based on the direction of Archbishop Job being implemented with consultation of Dr. Alice Woog. Biggest challenge is with compliance. Clergy and lay delegates should plan in advance for attendance at annual assemblies.
  - c. Treasurer’s Report: sent out by Robert Koncel. Motion to accept: Archpriest Nicholas Finley, ACCEPTED by verbal Aye.
    - i. Question raised regarding stock options gifted to a parish, to be valued at reception or when sold? Answered, Priest Jacob Van Sickle: “Stock

received as a donation is unrealized. The best practice is to sell it immediately and realize the value.”

- d. Audit Report: See written report. Sam and Michael Strelka presented on behalf of the Auditors. Motion to accept: Priests Nicholas Finely & Peter Simko. ACCEPTED.

L. Departmental Reports:

- a. Communications: Priest Alexander Koranda manages diocesan website. Please send in photos and reports from parishes for posting. Life of the diocese.
- b. Clergy Wives Advisory Group – Report to be delivered later.
- c. Liturgical Music: Priest Gregory. Workshops throughout the year.
- d. Continuing Education: Archpriest Elijah Mueller.
- e. Family Life: In formation.
- f. Youth Ministry: In formation.

M. Deanery Reports:

- a. Chicago: Archpriest Alexander Kuchta. See report on diocesan website.
- b. Cleveland: Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutsky. Welcomes assembly to Deanery. Efforts for the restoration of Saint Theodosius Cathedral. See written report.
- c. Indianapolis: Archpriest Steven Kostoff. See written report.
- d. Kansas City: Archpriest Timothy Sawchuk. Deanery sees lots of growth. See written report.
- e. Michigan: Archpriest Dusan Koprivica. Two new priests. See written report.
- f. Minneapolis: Archpriest Paul Wesche. Dakotas Mission District. Catechumens and growth. Minot, ND and Cornucopia, WI. See written report.

N. OCCIF Presentation: Archpriest John Dresko. Video.

- a. All donations continue to be invested into church building projects. Will work with any applicant throughout the process until they qualify to receive a loan. November 1<sup>st</sup> will have the first executive director, Fr. Athanasios Kombos.

O. First Keynote Address: Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky. *“A Parish Grows in Pennsylvania: The Story of Holy Apostles Church, Mechanicsburg, PA.”*

P. Adjourned for lunch at 11:45am with the singing of “Our Father” and a blessing from His Eminence.

### III. PLENARY SESSION II.

A. Convened: 12:45pm

B. Clergy Wives presentation, Miho Ealy.

- a. Wives and widows. Operates under the Office of Pastoral Life. Offer newsletter, online retreats, social media, reliquary fundraiser.

C. IOCC presentation, Archpriest Joel Weir.

- a. Disaster recovery. IOCC home front – disaster preparation.
- b. H.E. Archbishop Daniel encourages parishes to participate.

D. Credentials Report: 102 present. 56 Clergy, 36 Lay.

- a. Total: 92 registered. 4 Observers 6 Guests. Requirements for a quorum were met.

E. Nominating Committee Report:

- a. Diocesan Council Lay Delegate: Lori Billy, Alex Fedec, Wendy Hyer, John Maddex, Euphemia (Mia) Rowhader, Angela Zekios.

- b. Diocesan Council Clergy Delegate: Archpriests Zachariah Trent, Priest John Kennerk, Priest Matthew Macdonald, Priest Aaron Rutz, Priest John Segvich, Priest Peter Simko.
- c. Auditing Committee: Phil Fazio, Louise Moysenko.
- d. Nominees were asked to introduce themselves to the assembly following the reading of their names.
- F. Elections: Paper ballots were distributed to the delegates.
- G. Resolutions Committee Report & Discussion: None presented.
- H. Resolutions Disposition: None.
- I. 2025 Budget: Rob Koncel. Motion to adopt: Priest Peter Simko. ADOPTED.
- J. Announcements
  - a. Archbishop Daniel: Canon Law conference of the OCA, focused on Spiritual Courts.
- K. 2025 Assembly Location: Phoenix, AZ in conjunction with the All-American Council. Tentative dates are July 14-18, 2025.
- L. New Business:
  - a. Subdeacon Dimitri Pletz as new Diocesan Treasurer – introduction. Goals include providing resources to parishes for good practice in finance.
- M. Organization Plan of the Diocese of the Midwest. Alice Woog. See printed material.
  - a. Launch date November 15. Heads of departments to be appointed.
- N. Election Results:
  - a. Diocesan Council Lay Delegates: Angela Zekios, John Maddox, Lori Billy.
    - i. Lori Billy and Alex Fedec TIE, receive 42 votes each. Fedec steps back, Billy elected. (Alex Fedec, alternate).
  - b. Diocesan Council Clergy Delegate: Archpriest Zachariah Trent (incumbent re-elected), Priest John Segvich. (Priest John Kennerk, alternate).
  - c. Auditing Committee: Phil Fazio (Louise Moysenko, alternate).
  - d. His Eminence confirms and blesses those elected. Elected members will be installed after Divine Liturgy.
- O. Second Keynote Address: Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky. “*A Parish Grows in Pennsylvania: The Story of Holy Apostles Church, Mechanicsburg, PA.*”
- P. Adjournment: Priest Basil Crivella – motion to adjourn. The agenda completed, the Assembly adjourned at 3:57pm with the singing of “It is truly meet”.

*Respectfully submitted by the Secretariate,  
Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Diocesan Secretary &  
Priest Peter Simko, Mary Ann Bobulsky*