Archbishop Job accompanies Tikhvin icon to Russia

CHICAGO, IL – His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago, was among those who joined His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, in accompanying the wonderworking Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God to Russia in late June and early July 2004.

Before the icon left Chicago for the Dormition Monastery in Tikhvin, Archbishop Job hosted a delegation headed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Vladimir of St. Petersburg and Ladoga in Cleveland and Chicago. [See related story, photos on pages 6-7.] After final services in the icon’s presence at Chicago’s historic Holy Trinity Cathedral June 19-20, at which Metropolitan Herman presided, Archbishop Job left for Riga, Latvia, where the icon was venerated by an estimated 300,000 faithful before it was transferred to Moscow for formal reception by His Holiness, Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow and All Rus.

The precious icon, which tradition ascribes to the hand of the Evangelist Luke, was brought to the US in 1949 by the late Archbishop John [Garklavs], who saved it from the Nazis and Communists and served as its guardian until his death in 1982. His adopted son, the Very Rev. Sergei Garklavs, retired dean of Chicago’s Trinity Cathedral, guarded the icon after Archbishop John’s repose while awaiting the day when the Church in Russia would be free and the icon could be returned to its original home. Father and Mrs. Garklavs and members of Archbishop John’s family; His Grace, Bishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada; His Grace, Bishop Nikolai of Sitka, Anchorage and Alaska, and a group of pilgrims from the Orthodox Church in America, also traveled to Russia for the occasion.

On Wednesday, June 23, Patriarch Alexy and Metropolitan Herman enshrined the icon in Moscow’s Christ the Savior Cathedral, where hundreds of thousands of faithful kept vigil day and night until Sunday, June 27, when an estimated 250,000 faithful accompanied the icon in a street procession from the cathedral to Red Square.

From Moscow, the icon was taken to St. Petersburg, where some 30,000 faithful per day venerated it at Holy Trinity Cathedral before another massive procession accompanied it to the city’s Cathedral of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God on Sunday, July 4.

Four days later, the eve of the icon’s feast, the icon made the last leg...
ORDINATIONS
TRENT, Zachariah was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Bishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest at Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL/ December 28, 2003.

ASSIGNMENTS
BIERNACKI, V. Rev. Raphael is released from duties at SS. Peter and Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL and from the Diocese of the Midwest and transferred to the Bulgarian Diocese/ May 31, 2004.

BODNARCHUK, V. Rev. Mykola, who was attached, is appointed Associate Priest of St. Joseph Church, Wheaton, IL/ January 1, 2004.

BUTLER, Rev. Michael, in addition to duties at St. Innocent the Apostle to America Church, Olmsted Falls, OH, is appointed Late Vocations Program Coordinator for the Diocese of the Midwest/ June 3, 2004.

COLEMAN, Deacon John, who was attached, is now assigned to St. Joseph Church, Wheaton, IL/ January 30, 2004.

KARAFAA, V. Rev. Stephen is received into the Diocese of the Midwest from the Diocese of Eastern PA and assigned Acting Rector of SS. Peter and Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL/ July 1, 2004.

LIS, Rev. David A., is received into the Diocese of the Midwest from the Bulgarian Diocese/ May 31, 2004. He is attached to St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH/ June 1, 2004.

KOPESTONSKY, V. Rev. T. Stephen is released from duties at St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH and from the Diocese of the Midwest and granted retirement/ May 31, 2004.

MUELLER, Rev. Elijah is received into the Diocese of the Midwest from the Albanian Archdiocese and attached to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Milwaukee, WI/ June 20, 2004.

NELSON, Rev. Luke is released from duties at Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL, and appointed Acting Rector of Archangel Michael Church, Burbank, IL/ June 15, 2004.

NORRIS, Deacon Gregory is released from duties at Protection of the Virgin Mary Church, Merrillville, IN and from the Diocese of the Midwest and transferred to the Diocese of the South/ July 20, 2004.

PLATKO, V. Rev. John, in addition to duties at Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS, is appointed Acting Dean of the St. Louis Deanery/ July 15, 2004.

ROGOZAN, Deacon Richard James is released from duties at Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI and granted a Leave of Absence/ February 1, 2004.

ROGOZAN, Deacon James, who was on a Leave of Absence, is restored to active duty and attached to Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI/ May 6, 2004.

TRENT, Deacon Zachariah is assigned to St. John the Forerunner Church, Indianapolis, IN/ December 28, 2003.

WEHLING, Rev. John, who was Acting Rector, is appointed Rector of St. Matthew Church, Green Bay, WI/ January 11, 2004.

WILLIS, Deacon Kelsios is released from duties at St. Mary Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN and assigned to Holy Cross Mission, St. Croix Falls, WI/ July 28, 2004.


WYSULTSKY, Rev. Nicholas is received into the Diocese of the Midwest from the Diocese of Eastern PA and appointed Acting Rector of St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH/ July 1, 2004.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
ROGOZAN, Deacon Richard James is granted a Leave of Absence for six months. He remains attached to Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI/ February 1, 2004.

RETIREMENT
KOPESTONSKY, V. Rev. T. Stephen, who was granted retirement, is released from the Diocese of the Midwest, transferred to the omophorion of Metropolitan Herman, and attached to St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church, South Canaan, PA/ May 31, 2004.

PARISHES
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST/ New Status: Mission Outreach of Northwest Columbus, OH is granted Mission Status and is now called All Saints of North America Mission, Columbus, OH. It is serviced by Columbus Deanery clergy/ July 26, 2004. ♦
As we celebrated the bright Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8, more children remained to be buried in the small town of Beslan, North Ossetia in Russia. As this terrorist act was initially unfolding, I had hoped and prayed that the “unthinkable” could somehow be avoided. Tragically, and much to our collective horror, that was not to be. The “slaughter of the innocents” that followed upon the outbreak of shooting during the siege of the school is now a hard fact that we are forced to contemplate. Images of frightened and shrieking children together with those who were dazed and bloodied poured into our homes and then into our memories. The empty and smoldering middle school that contained many charred bodies and which has now become a shrine to the victims also stands out.

Now we are praying for the souls of those who have perished and for the grieving who remain bereft of their children.

In terms of human suffering and death, I believe that this is the worst single-day tragedy since our own national nightmare of September 11, 2001. Although there is still a good deal of confusion as to the exact identity of the terrorists, it seems certain that religiously they were Muslims. From some of the images I saw on television, the funerals seemed to be of both Muslims and Orthodox Christians. There was some relief and consolation, therefore, when the terrorists were strongly condemned throughout the Muslim world by high-standing clerics and journalists. The most troubling question in the aftermath of this tragedy just may be whether the sheer horror of this event made it a one-time aberration, or whether it will become a precedent for future terrorists to exploit?

The irrationality and sheer evil of not only taking children hostage, using them as human shields and then shooting at them or blowing them up will (hopefully) remain beyond our capacity to comprehend. What was meant to be achieved by all of this is also hard to determine.

I believe that we need to speak carefully and thoughtfully about God in relation to this tragedy. Pious platitudes may only serve to dishonor the dead and irritate the skeptical. The human heart, teaches Saint Macarius the Great, can be filled with “God and the angels...heavenly cities and treasures of grace.” Yet, he continues, it can also become the home of “poisonous beasts, and all the treasures of evil,” “uneven roads,” and even “precipices.” God encourages and graciously enables the former and “allows” the latter. Our Lord taught, “For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man” [Mark 7:21-23].

All of this presupposes human freedom and self-determination. The “mystery of iniquity” is linked to the “mystery of freedom.” Human sin is committed by human beings who have suffered or allowed the corruption of their hearts. This is a complex process that is difficult to disentangle rationally for there are so many factors and variables in human conduct. And that very sin can be committed “in the name of God.”

According to the Christian revelation, God chose to overcome and defeat the power of sin and death “objectively” through the death and resurrection of Christ, but this must be “subjectively” appropriated, so that the heart can be healed and purified through faith. God does not force people to be virtuous or refrain from evil actions. The New Testament certainly does not claim that He ever would.

In the Church’s prayers for the departed, we pray the following: “Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the souls of Thy departed servants, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away.... For Thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away....” If this prayer manifests truth and reality, then it is not a pious platitude, but rather a profound expression of our collective hope and conviction that the “last word” belongs to God whose righteousness is to all eternity.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, on whose Nativity so many of the children of Beslan were buried, may Christ bring peace and consolation to the hearts of the grieving and mourning parents, relatives and friends of the children, women and men who innocently suffered, and may their memory be eternal!
Mission department restructured

CHICAGO – The Diocesan Mission Department recently announced a new structure of support for diocesan missions. The new method of funding will focus available diocesan funds on building new parishes across the Midwest.

“The new funding structure will replace the diocesan support that was previously distributed across the board to up to 16 different missions,” said the Rev. Basil Aden, diocesan mission director. “Starting July 1, 2005, the mission money of the diocese will be awarded on the basis of the potential for growth into full parishes and effectiveness in including as many as possible in the Orthodox Church.”

The financial mission support of the diocese will be distributed each year as annual grants, Father Aden added. To encourage the missions to move swiftly to full parish status, there will be time limitations for eligibility for grants.

“To ensure fairness, a mission review committee will consider applications for funding annually,” said Father Aden. “The committee includes Archbishop Job, Father John Zdinak, chancellor; two deans; two lay members of the diocesan council; and the diocesan mission director.”

The new structure is the result of a review process directed by Father Zdinak.

“In May 2004, a special meeting with Archbishop Job reviewed a study of diocesan missions,” Father Aden said. “This committee then set up the new support method.”

The dramatic increase in the number of diocesan missions over the past five years has spread out the funding of approximately $50,000.00 per year to 12 full missions, two mission stations, and one emerging group. Since the median time for missions to become full parishes is 12 years, the need for focus of funding is obvious, notes Father Aden.

“Perhaps the most striking information of the study is that the median time for becoming a ‘full mission’ is under two years. Statistics indicate that if a mission station does not achieve ‘full mission’ status within two years, it probably will not be successful.

“A number of the full missions are now struggling to build reserves to find property on which to build,” Father Aden added. ◆

Cleveland deanery to host diocesan fundraiser

BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OH – Saint Michael’s Woodside here will be the site of an evening of food, fun and fellowship benefiting the Midwest Diocese’s many endeavors Sunday, November 14, 2004.

Chaired by Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak, a member of the diocesan council, the event will begin with a cocktail hour at 3:00 p.m. Dinner will follow at 4:00. Entertainment will be provided by Harmonia.

Tickets for the gala event are only $35.00 per person and may be ordered by calling Mrs. Lucak at 440/526-9696. Deadline for reservations is November 7.

“Our efforts will benefit a variety of diocesan programs and the level of assistance offered our diocesan seminarians and missions,” Mrs. Lucak said. ◆

Our diocesan seminarians

STUDYING AT SAINT VLADIMIR SEMINARY
Deacon Alexander Lukashonak • Jacob Hatch • Eric Iliff • Joseph Matusiak • William Neumann • Nathan Preston

STUDYING AT SAINT TIKHON SEMINARY
Herman Klarr • Philip Majkrzak • John Szward

2004 SAINT VLADIMIR SEMINARY GRADUATE
Alexander Cadman

2004 SAINT TIKHON SEMINARY GRADUATES
Father Stephen Frase • Father John Baker

Donations to assist our growing number of seminarians are always welcome.

MIDWEST DIOCESAN SEMINARIAN FUND
927 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60610

IN BRIEF

- The 43rd annual Diocesan Assembly will be held Monday through Wednesday, October 4-6, at Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI. Archbishop Job, together with clergy and lay delegates from parishes across the Midwest, will review the many new programs and projects implemented since the 2003 assembly, said Fr. John Zdinak, Diocesan Chancellor. Fr. Zdinak added that the assembly will consider ways to steward effectively the diocese’s financial resources.

- Fr. Elijah Mueller, a Ph.D. candidate at Marquette University, is conducting the Chicago Deanery’s 2004-2005 Higher Education Program on Orthodox spirituality. The bi-weekly sessions started September 12 at Christ the Savior Church in Chicago. Fr. Mueller is conducting a similar program in Milwaukee, WI and is considering holding a third program in the western Chicago suburbs.

- The second annual Festival of Sacred Arts will be held at the Most Holy Mother of God-New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery in Grayslake, IL from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. on Saturday, October 2. Displays will highlight iconography, music, textiles, crafts, etc. Refreshments and entertainment will also be available. The highly popular event is sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago and Faith Net, Inc. For more info call 773/227-1018 or visit Faith Net’s web site at FaithNetOrth@aol.com. ◆
lexis Toth was born on March 14, 1853, to the Rev. George and Cecelia Toth near Eperjes, Hungary. His father was a Greek Catholic, or uniate, priest.

The young Alexis studied in Latin and Greek Rite Catholic seminaries, and eventually graduated from the University of Presov with a degree in theology. After his marriage to Rosalie Mihalich, Alexis was ordained to the priesthood in the Greek Catholic Church in 1878. He served for two years as a parish priest before he was appointed diocesan administrator. In 1881, he became the director of the Presov seminary, where he taught canon law and Church history for the next eight years. During this period he faced the death of his wife, as well as that of their only child.

In 1889, Father Alexis was sent to America to serve as a missionary priest. He began his American ministry at the recently established Saint Mary Greek Catholic Church in Minneapolis, MN. The parishioners were immigrants from the Carpathian mountains of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, variously known as Rusyns or Ruthenians. Their ancestors had been of the Orthodox Faith, but in 1646 they were forced to unite with the state Roman Catholic Church at the Union of Uzhorod – hence the term sometimes used to describe Greek Rite Catholics, “uniate” – although they were permitted to retain many of Orthodox Christianity’s externals and customs.

At the time Father Alexis arrived in America, the Roman Catholic Church was involved in an internal controversy, eventually termed the “Americanist heresy.” Many of the predominantly Irish and German bishops felt that Catholic immigrants should become thoroughly assimilated into American culture. Yet central and eastern European immigrants of Roman and Greek rites desired to retain their “old country” identities. With no hierarch of their own in America at the time, the Greek Rite faithful, including those of Saint Mary’s, were placed under the local Roman Rite bishops, who considered them to be an alien sect.

Upon his arrival in Minneapolis, Father Alexis called on the local Roman Catholic Bishop, John Ireland, to present his credentials. The ensuing “storm” is detailed in his own words.

“I was a uniate when I came to America,” Father Alexis wrote. “I appeared before Bishop Ireland on December 19, 1889. I kissed his hand according to custom and presented my credentials, failing, however, to kneel before him (which, as I learned later, was my chief mistake). I remember that no sooner had he read that I was a ‘Greek Catholic,’ his hands began to shake.

“Have you a wife?”
“No.”
“But you had one?”
“Yes, I am a widower.”

“At this he threw my papers on the table and loudly exclaimed, ‘I have already written to Rome protesting against this kind of priest being sent to me!’”

“What kind of priest do you mean?”
“Your kind!”
“I am a Catholic priest of the Greek Rite. I am a uniate and was ordained by a regular Catholic bishop.’

“I do not consider that either you or this bishop of yours is Catholic.... I shall grant you no jurisdiction to work here.’”

Archbishop Ireland officially and publically forbade Roman Catholics from worshipping at services conducted by Father Alexis. So Father Alexis appealed to his bishop in Europe and then to Rome, but nothing was resolved. Other Greek Catholic priests contacted Father Alexis and related how they too had been treated similarly by other Roman Catholic bishops upon their arrival in America.

“I made up my mind to do something which I had carried in my heart for a long time, for which my soul longed: that is, to become Orthodox,” wrote Father Alexis. Having shared his vision with the faithful of Saint Mary’s, a parishioner, John Mlinar, traveled to San Francisco to make initial contact with the Orthodox Bishop of North America, Vladimir [Sokolovsky]. In February 1891, Father Alexis and parishioner Paul Podany visited Bishop Vladimir and petitioned to be received into the Orthodox Faith, together with the Minneapolis faithful.

In March 1891, Bishop Vladimir journeyed to Minneapolis, where he received Father Alexis and some 360 mem-
Wheaton, IL [Above] At St. Joseph Church, Fr. John Matusiak presents Metropolitan Vladimir with rare and original iconographic plans by noted Russian artist Viktor Vasnetsov for St. Petersburg’s 19th century Cathedral of the Savior “On Spilled Blood.”

Chicago [Above, right] Metropolitan Herman [center] with ROCOR Bishop Peter, Metropolitan Vladimir, Archbishop Job and Bishop Seraphim after final service in the Tikhvin icon’s presence at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Chicago [Right] Metropolitan Vladimir presents Archbishop Job with panagia and pectoral cross set during visit to Christ the Savior Church and the Midwest Diocesan Center.

Chicago [Below] Clergy and faithful fill Holy Trinity Cathedral beyond capacity as a final Akathistos Hymn in honor of the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God is sung before the icon’s return to Russia.
Russian Metropolitan visits Chicago, Cleveland

CHICAGO, IL – Holy Trinity Cathedral here was filled beyond capacity June 18-20, 2004, as faithful from across the Midwest bade farewell to the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God.

Present for services, which included the Akathistos Hymn, All-Night Vigil, and Divine Liturgy were His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; His Eminence, Metropolitan Vladimir of St. Petersburg and Ladoga; His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest; and His Grace, Bishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada. Also attending the Divine Liturgy was His Grace, Bishop Peter of Cleveland of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

In the days leading up to the farewell services, Metropolitan Vladimir and a delegation from Russia visited several parishes in Cleveland and Chicago, affording them a glimpse of life in the Diocese of the Midwest.

Parma, OH [Left] Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky, faithful of Holy Trinity Church welcome Metropolitan Vladimir.

Broadview Heights, OH [Below] Fr. Yves Babich, associate pastor, presents cross to hierarchs at Archangel Michael Church.

Cleveland, OH [Above] Archbishop Job; Carol and Alex Machaskee, Plain Dealer publisher; Metropolitan Vladimir; Mayor Jane Campbell; Dr. Joan Brown Campbell; and Bishop Seraphim at reception.

Cleveland, OH [Below, left] Fr. John Zdinak and faithful welcome Metropolitan Vladimir to St. Theodosius Cathedral.

Maple Heights, OH [Below] Metropolitan Vladimir signs Gospel at St. Andrew Church as Fr. Emil Hutnyan looks on.
In St. Petersburg, hundreds of thousands of faithful venerated the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God at Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Cathedral of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God [above].

In Moscow, an estimated quarter of a million hierarchs, clergy and laity joined the procession in which the Tikhvin icon was carried from the massive Christ the Savior Cathedral, past the Kremlin, and finally to the Cathedral of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God in Red Square [right].

Upon its arrival in Moscow, the Tikhvin icon was greeted by Patriarch Alexy and Metropolitan Herman at the entrance to the landmark Christ the Savior Cathedral [right, bottom].

Metropolitan Herman, Metropolitan Vladimir, and Archbishop Job were among the thousands of hierarchs, clergy and laity who led the procession with the Tikhvin icon through the streets of the city of Tikhvin en route to the Dormition Monastery [below].
Archbishop accompanies Tikhvin icon to Russia

of its journey to Tikhvin’s Dormition Monastery. Thousands of faithful were on hand for two days of services, climaxing with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy concelebrated by Patriarch Alexy, Metropolitan Herman, Archbishop Job, and dozens of other hierarchs on Friday, July 9, the Feast of the Tikhvin Icon.

Full coverage of the icon’s return, featuring hundreds of photos, may be found at www.oca.org/pages/events/2004/06.June/0623MoscowRussia-TikhvinReturn/mainindex.html.
I. OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER.
His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago opened the meeting with the singing of the Ascension Troparion at 10:27 a.m.

Members present: Archbishop Job, Fr. Vladimir Berzon-sky, Fr. Andrew Clements, Mr. Sam D’Fantis, Mr. Michael Herzak, Mr. Robert Koncel, Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak, Ms. Kitty Mabus, Fr. John Matusiak, Mr. John Sedor, Dr. Richard West, Fr. Bartholomew Wojcik, and Fr. John Zdinak, Chancellor.


Guest: Mr. Joseph Kormos.

II. READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

III. MINUTES.
The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 14 January 2004 were accepted as presented upon motion by Fr. Clements, seconded by Dr. West.

IV. REPORTS.
A. Diocesan Hierarch.
1. Archbishop Job began by noting that his calendar is extremely full and that, in some cases, he must choose between different events.
2. Archbishop Job reported on the impending return to Russia of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God in July 2004. After final services before the icon in Chicago, slated for 18-20 June, he will travel to Russia, from which he will return 12 July.
3. Archbishop Job spoke of his visits to St. Peter the Aleut Church, Minot, ND and Saskatoon, Alberta, where he will offer a presentation to members of the OCA Archdiocese of Canada.
4. Archbishop Job reported that he will attend the 10th Anniversary of the OCA Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine in Moscow in December 2004.
5. Archbishop Job will attend the annual pilgrimage at Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA in conjunction with the Great Feast of the Transfiguration, at which he will preach.
6. Archbishop Job reported that as of 1 June 2004, Mr. Joel Wilson, a recent college graduate from Indiana, will be serving as his aide and traveling with him on his archpastoral visitsations. Joel is contemplating seminary studies. He added that in October 2004, Mr. Jerry Kindaid, who has petitioned for ordination, will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate, after which he will serve as his deacon.
7. Archbishop Job reported that he will make a “low key” visit to Saint John the Theologian Monastery, Hiram, OH in May. He expressed his desire to make the monastery’s work and presence better known throughout the diocese.
8. Archbishop Job stated that communications between the Diocesan Chancery in Chicago and Fr. Zdinak, chancellor, have been working well.
9. In reflecting on the spring 2004 session of the Holy Synod of Bishops, Archbishop Job observed that the situation of world Orthodoxy is discouraging, with numerous problems between some of the sister autocephalous Churches abroad. He expressed concern for “expansionism” on the part of the Church of Russia, especially with regard to North America. He opined that it is crucial for the OCA and its Holy Synod to assert themselves as the autocephalous Church in America. He added that OCA hierarchs will begin accompanying Metropolitan Herman on his official visits to the sister autocephalous Churches.
10. Archbishop Job reported that a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia currently is in Russia, adding that there are many details which much be considered in the approachment between ROCOR and the Moscow Patriarchate. In reference to this and concerns expressed in point 9 above, Archbishop Job stated that the OCA must maintain the integrity of its autocephalous status.

B. Chancellor’s Report.
1. In addition to points noted in his written report, Fr. Zdinak noted that plans for the diocese’s participation in the return to Russia of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God are being finalized. During the week of 15 June Metropolitan Vladimir of St. Petersburg and an entourage will visit Cleveland and an entourage will visit Cleveland en route to Chicago. Archbishop Job will meet the delegation at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport, followed by various receptions and Cleveland-area parish visitations. Metropolitan Herman will join the Russian delegation in Chicago. The diocese is will fund an evening
COUNCIL/10

reception at the Diocesan Chancery, a Saturday evening dinner, and hotel expenses, as well as transportation within the Chicago area. Expenses for Archbishop Job’s visit to Russia will be paid by the OCA, although the diocese is responsible for his aide’s expenses. A maximum of $10,000.00 will be spent in connection with the return of the icon. He added that there is $6,000.00 in reserve for special events.

2. Fr. Zdinak reported on the 24 May 2004 meeting of the mission committee, which considered ways of improving mission outreach throughout the diocese. The committee will consist of Archbishop Job, Fr. Zdinak, two deans, and two lay members of the Diocesan Council. A $65,000.00 annual mission budget was adopted for missions, with a $5,000.00 annual stipend for the mission director, Fr. Basil Aden. Alternative methods for granting mission stipends are being considered, in light of the fact that some missions have been stipended for a decade or more. In the future, missions must submit annual stipend requests and reports, which will be reviewed before disbursements are determined. Funding will run from July through June of the following year. Current mission stipends will continue through June 2005; in July 2005 the new system will be fully operative. Fr. Zdinak noted that the new system will reflect better stewardship while forcing accountability from mission communities. It was also noted that not all missions are entitled to receive stipends and that annual stipend amounts vary. At present there are 15 communities receiving stipends.

In response to Fr. Zdinak’s report, Fr. Bartholomew Wojcik, seconded by Fr. Berzonsky, motioned that the mission committee employ what-ever means necessary to move missions to full parish status in the most expeditious manner. Motion passed.

V. Deans’ Reports.

1. Chicago Deanery. Fr. Mueller added that there were some impending pastoral changes in the deanery. He also noted that Fr. Elijah Mueller of Jamaica, NY would be returning to the deanery.

2. Cleveland Deanery. In addition to the written report, it was noted that Fr. Stephen Kopestonsky, rector of St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH, is retiring. Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsy, rector of All Saints Church, Olyphant, PA, will be received into the Diocese of the Midwest and assume duties in Mogadore on 1 July 2004.

3. Columbus Deanery. Fr. Rintel raised concerns with regard to serving the faithful in Byesville, OH. He also noted that a practicum for deacons will be held in Columbus in the near future.

4. Michigan Deanery. Fr. Yavornitzky reported on initial plans for the forthcoming assembly, to be hosted by the deanery in October 2004. He also thanked everyone for their prayers and concern during his recent illness.

5. Minneapolis Deanery. Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik added that St. Nicholas Mission, Pella, IA soon will receive a full-time priest. He also spoke of efforts to establish a mission in the southern suburbs of Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN; ongoing efforts at Christ the Savior Mission, Anoka, MN; the move of Holy Cross Mission, St. Croix Falls, MN to Scandia, MN; and the planting grant given to St. John of Kronstadt Mission, Lincoln, NB.

6. St. Louis Deanery. It was reported that Fr. Thomas Succarottee, dean, once again has been hospitalized and that his physical condition is of serious concern. Archbishop Job noted that an acting dean will be appointed in the immediate future.

D. Metropolitan Council Representatives’ Report. Dr. West and Fr. Berzonsky reported that the Metropolitan Council has not met since the January 2004 diocesan council meeting. A meeting was to have been held, but it was cancelled due to the lack of funds. They reported a sense of frustration with the lack of meetings. In response to the report, Mrs. Lucak, seconded by Dr. West, motioned that a letter expressing concern over the lack of Metropolitan Council meetings, in light of the fact that the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America calls for regular meetings, should be sent to the OCA Chancery. Motion passed.

E. Diocesan Department Reports.

1. Mission Department. No additions to the written report.

2. The Vigil. In addition to the written report, Fr. Matusiak reported that future issues of The Vigil will feature four-color photos. Additional considerations with regard to The Vigil and the diocesan web site will be discussed by the communications committee later in the afternoon.

VI. TREASURER’S REPORT.

Mr. Koncel, Diocesan Treasurer, presented a written report and offered appropriate commentary. He noted that the diocese’s financial situation is healthy and “on track,” although assessment income is somewhat behind. No funds were spent for Metropolitan Council travel due to the lack of meetings. Printing costs were up due to the printing of new stationary. There was a small profit realized from the 2003 diocesan assembly. Repairs to the chancery roof must be considered, together with the need to install separate heating systems in the chancery and Christ the Savior Church.

VII. PARISH DEVELOPMENT AND STUDY COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION.
Following a lunch recess, the parish development and communications study committees met separately under the direction of Mr. Kormos and Fr. Zdinak.

A. Parish Development: Mr. Kormos led the committee in an exploration of ways by which the diocese could grow and become healthier. Among the topics/isssued discussed were:

1. the diocese's lack of numerical growth.
2. the need for “firing up” existing parishes through workshops, the use of “tried-and-true” resources, improved worship, effective evangelization and lay ministry efforts, etc.
3. the possibility of developing individual parish growth/mission strategies leading to tangible action plans.
4. the sharing of ideas between those established parishes that have experienced growth and the majority which have not.
5. the possibility of engaging a “parish life facilitator” responsible for imparting skills, networking, etc. to diocesan parishes.
6. the need for ongoing training of parish leadership, treasurers, choir directors, Church school teachers, etc.
7. the urgent need to address clergy compensation, the health insurance crisis, etc.

B. Communications: Fr. Zdinak led the committee in an exploration of ways to improve communications within the diocese through:

1. better flow of information between the chancery, chancellor, editor of The Vigil, web master, etc.
2. the establishment of e-mail capabilities at the chancery.
3. a concerted effort on every level to make more effective use of The Vigil.
4. ongoing upgrading and improvements to the diocesan web site.

Fr. John Schroedel presented a proposal for revamping and expanding the diocesan web site, which was discussed at length by committee members. Following the separate committee sessions, the entire membership of the council reviewed concerns expressed by both committees and pledged to pursue the points noted at the next council meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. upon motion by Ms. Mabus, seconded by Fr. Clements, with the singing of the Hymn to the Theotokos.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. John Matusiak, Diocesan Secretary

Approved for distribution,
+ JOB
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

ST. ALEXIS

bers of his flock into the Orthodox Faith on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The mass conversion was officially sanctioned by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church and publicly proclaimed at a special service in the San Francisco cathedral in August 1882.

Naturally, this action angered many of Father Alexis’ former associates, who considered him a renegade. Nevertheless, a number of other uniate priests followed his lead and embraced the faith of their forefathers.

Within two years, Father Alexis moved to Wilkes-Barre, PA, a center of Greek Rite Catholicism. He continued his work with the immigrants, helped to organize a mutual aid society, and encouraged them to return to the Orthodox Faith. Among his writings was a basic Orthodox catechism, Where To Seek The Truth. He traveled far and wide, inspiring countless individuals and entire communities to return to the Orthodox Faith. By the end of his life, he alone had received some 15,000 former uniates into the Church.

For his efforts, Father Alexis was elevated to the dignity of protopresbyter. He received honors from Tsar Nicholas II and Saint Tikhon, then Archbishop of North America. Father Alexis is considered by many today to be the “Father of American Orthodoxy,” and is especially venerated in the Midwest. Had it not been for his efforts in Minneapolis, surely others would not have followed his example and that of the faithful of Saint Mary Church.

Father Alexis fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 56 on May 7, 1909 and was buried at Saint Tikhon Monastery, South Canaan, PA. He was canonized by the Orthodox Church in America in May 1994. Today, his relics are venerated by the faithful in the monastery Church of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk.

Through the prayers of our father among the saints, Alexis, O Lord, save us!

Adapted from Portraits of American Saints by Fr. George Gray and Jan V. Bear.

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Jesus' Two Great Commandments

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets” [Matthew 22:37-40].

Kathy moaned in Sunday School, “The Commandments are so many! How can I memorize them all? I can’t remember any!”

The teacher smiled and said, “Each week We’ll study one or two; It might take time, but you’ll learn them Before the year is through.”

Weeks later while in Sunday school, Kathy hung her head. “Yesterday I told a lie And struck my friend,” she said.

The teacher said, “If you are sorry, God will pardon you; Just ask and He’ll forgive your sins, No matter what you do.”

“Now Jesus gave us two more laws, And if these we obey, Then all the other ten we’ll keep; Let’s study them today!”
Parish continues to give the “gift of literacy” to new immigrants

WHEATON, IL – Parishioners of Saint Joseph Church here recently began their sixth year of ministry to neighborhood immigrants by offering Saturday morning English language classes to children and adults from Vietnam, Cuba, Korea, China, Poland, Russia, Albania and Ethiopia.

“Our community’s demographics have changed dramatically since our parish was established 15 years ago,” noted Patricia Labun, who coordinates the program with Subdeacon Abe Rihani and a dozen volunteers. “The literacy program helps acclimate immigrants to their new lives in America and serves as a means to introduce our neighbors to the Orthodox Christian Faith.”

Among the volunteer teachers are students from neighboring Wheaton College and others recruited by the Peoples’ Resource Center, a community outreach agency with close ties to the parish.

ESL students represent a broad spectrum of cultures.

Warren, OH parishes “join forces” for annual VCS program

WARREN, OH – Saint John the Baptist Church here hosted the 19th annual Vacation Church School program cosponsored by area parishes June 21-25, 2004.

Nearly 100 children from the host parish and Holy Resurrection Romanian Orthodox Church, Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, and Saint Nicholas Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church enjoyed the week’s theme, “Son Games.” Four priests and 32 lay staffers “joined forces” to lead the classes and discussions, arts and crafts sessions, worship, and other activities. On the last day participants presented a musical program directed by Christine DiGiacobbe to parents.

The Very Rev. Peter Pawlack served as host pastor.

Archbishop Job joined Chicago Deanery youth at their annual summer camp in Wisconsin.

- Fr. John Adamcio, Dean of Chicago’s Holy Trinity Cathedral, and his wife Melania were recently treated to a surprise 30th anniversary celebration marking his ordination to the priesthood. Seventy-five well-wishers, including Archbishop Job and several deanery clergy, were on hand at the Greek Islands restaurant in Greek Town for the occasion. The event was sponsored by the St. John Kochurov Society and coordinated by Marilyn Bezkorovainy and Edie Tikoff.

- Hundreds of diocesan youth participated in summer camp programs this year. Once again, the Minneapolis Deanery’s St. Mary Camp attracted a record number of children and teens, as did the pan-Orthodox Eastern Orthodox Youth Camp in the Kansas City area, the Chicago Deanery Camp in Wisconsin, St. John Summer Camp in Riverdale, IN, and St. Vladimir Camp in Farmdale, OH.
Chicago couple collects books, videos in memory of son

BURR RIDGE, IL –

On April 29, 2003, John Robert Koncel, the four-year-old son of Barry and Deb Koncel of Saints Peter and Paul Church here, passed away, the victim of Pompe Disease.

John Robert, described as a “hero and medical pioneer” – he was the world’s first person to receive experimental treatment for this fatal disease at North Carolina’s Duke University and Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago – was one of only 5,000–10,000 people worldwide to suffer from the disease, characterized by muscle weakening. In infants, Pompe progresses rapidly to cardiac and respiratory failure, and ultimate death.

Shortly after John Robert’s death, his parents organized a book and video drive in his memory to help families whose children receive in-patient care at Children’s Memorial Hospital. Many Chicago Deanery parishes participated in the drive, and the response was so overwhelming that they have decided to make it an annual event.

“During the four years of John’s life, we spent many days and nights at Children’s Memorial Hospital, where we passed the time with some of his favorite activities, including watching videos and DVDs, and reading books,” Barry said. “Unfortunately, the hospital had a limited supply and variety of videos and books. Hence, we decided that, in conjunction with John Robert’s birthday on January 27, we’d collect videos and books and donate them to the hospital. This will provide the hospital with a ‘fresh supply’ every year.”

The Koncels hope that other parishes will contribute new videos, DVDs, and books – hospital policy does not permit the collection of used items – before January 15, 2005. Cash donations to purchase items – checks should be made payable to “Children’s Memorial Hospital” – are also being accepted.

Items and checks may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Barry Koncel, 3756 West 56 Street, Chicago, IL 60629.

“It is our hope that by offering an annual supply of such items, other families will also benefit, and our son’s memory will be kept alive,” said Barry.

Metropolitan Herman, Archbishop Job consecrate Livonia church

LIVONIA, MI – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest consecrated the recently constructed Holy Transfiguration Church here May 21-22, 2004.

The Very Rev. Michael Matsko, rector, and the parish faithful welcomed the hierarchs to the spacious new Byzantine-style church. Frescoes recently completed in the apse and central dome were also blessed.

The growing parish was established in 1988.

Metropolitan Herman, Archbishop Job bless rocks used to secure dowels in new altar table at Holy Transfiguration Church. The placement of the dowels signifies the nailing of Our Lord to the Cross.
Parish honors diocesan priest on his return from Kuwait

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL – Shortly afterPascha, the parishioners of Holy Apostles Mission here celebrated the long-awaited return of their pastor, the Rev. John D. Brown, who for over one year had served as chaplain to Orthodox military personnel in the Middle East.

Deployed in the spring of 2003, Father Brown was stationed in Kuwait. He also spent several weeks ministering to military personnel in Afghanistan and the Iraqi capital.

Dozens of parishioners and friends, including local political figures, were on hand at a reception honoring Father Brown, his wife, Patty, and their sons during Bright Week.

Asked about his future plans now that he has reentered “civilian life,” Father Brown said he was anxious to return to his duties building up the four-year-old mission community he serves.

Holy Apostles was established in the late 1990s as a mission station. After purchasing property near the campus of the University of Illinois, it was elevated to mission status. A former Protestant clergyman, Father Brown was ordained at the mission after completing the diocesan late vocation program.

Chicago’s southwest side parishes hold picnic

CHICAGO – About 100 members of four southwest side parishes here – Saint Panteleimon, Argo-Summit; Archangel Michael, Burbank; Saint Luke, Palos Hills; and Saints Peter and Paul, Burr Ridge – gathered at a forest preserve grove for their annual picnic on a Sunday in mid-June.

His Eminence, Archbishop Job presided at the Divine Liturgy at the picnic site, assisted by the Very Revs. Myron Manzuk and Andrew Harrison and the Rev. Bartholomew Wojcik. A festive picnic featuring food, games, and music followed. A special feature of the afternoon was a contest to determine the best southwest side chili recipe!

The four parishes, located within a few miles of one another, have attempted to join forces in a variety of worship and fellowship gatherings, including combined feastday celebrations, in recent years.

Archbishop Job samples chili contest entrees presented by Luba Johnson as Fr. Bartholomew Wojcik and Bill Koblosh “cheer him on.”