

# Delegate Handbook

## Volume 3

Second Ver. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Department and Institution Reports



**Diocese of the West  
Orthodox Church in America  
2023 Diocesan Assembly  
October 24-26, 2023**

**Meeting Held Courtesy of**

**St. Seraphim Cathedral  
90 Mountain View Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA**

Second Ver. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This is the third updated version of this document

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\*No written report this year.

**2022/23 Diocesan Assembly Department of Charities Report**  
**Archpriest Lawrence Russell**  
**September 1, 2023**

The allocations that were authorized in the Charities line item within our Diocesan Budget during 2022/23 were presented to the Diocesan Finance Committee, reviewed by the Diocesan Council, and adopted as part of our 2022/23 Diocesan Budget at last year's Diocesan Assembly. The budget for the charities department comes mostly through donations to our diocese's Stewards of the West.

This year I presented a slightly different budget when compared to the ones presented in previous years. Our budget had previously supported three (or more) orthodox charitable organizations with an additional line item for discretionary spending. The discretionary budget is disbursed in one of three ways: through His Eminence's contacting me to discuss a need that had been brought to His Eminence's attention; through action of the Diocesan Council at a quarterly meeting; or, through a request sent to me- generally by email- that I then discuss with His Eminence and after receiving His Eminence's Archpastoral blessing, I advise the treasurer to release the funds.

In this year's proposed budget, you see that I retained Project Mexico, but I have not included Gobezie Goshu Home for the Elderly or The St. Petersburg Hospice for Children that were part of numerous, previous budgets. In both instances we lost the ability to transfer donated funds to these two charities. In the case of the Hospice, the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia that was authorized by the Russian government to send donations into Russia, stopped doing so. In the case of Gobezie Goshu, Ethiopia has been in a three-year civil war with basic services being greatly disrupted: particularly to the Tigray region, where the work is located. Only now are the basic services of utilities, banking, telephones, and electronic communication being slowly restored. In addition, the founder of the work and longtime director, Ms. Tsige Gobezie, reposed in the Lord on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Memory Eternal! There is a new director coming from America to take over the work. Previous donations remain safely deposited in an American bank. The American-based board hopes to soon begin sending support for the work that Tsige started and oversaw for 15 years. The new director, Abraham Teklu, a native of Tigray, and a nephew of Tsige, has returned to Ethiopia and is assessing how best to assist with the endless needs of a war-torn Ethiopia. We can reconsider these two works in future budgets after resolving the issue of the transfer of funds.

After discussion with His Eminence, and through discussion at our last diocesan council meeting, I am proposing an increase in the discretionary part of our budget. Mindful of the fact that we have not always connected discretionary funds with needs, I proposed my following up on the communications sent out by Administrative Assistant Priest Andrew Smith requesting prayer through my contacting those suffering to see if funds in keeping with the purpose of our discretionary budget might be disbursed.

Part of my duties as charities chair include overseeing funds gathered for specific relief, such as relief for wildfires, health crises, etc. His Eminence called for donations for the earthquake in Turkey/Syria; relief for the fires in Māui and a general appeal for the Shipley family. These diocesan-wide appeals were and are being sent directly to local agencies and did not pass through the Diocese of the West.

In addition to the yearly budget, we sponsor a diocese-wide Lenten Appeal. His Grace instructed us to raise these additional funds for the Diocese of Alaska this year. Our treasurer informs me that was raised \$17,201.37 through this year's appeal. Our Lenten Appeal for 2024 will be for the Diocese of Mexico.

The department has received requests for continued funding and proposes the following budget for 23/24:

Project Mexico	\$1,000.00
Discretionary Fund	<u>\$9,000.00</u>
Budget Total	\$10,000.00

Respectfully Submitted by,

Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Department Chair

**REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**2023 Diocesan Assembly of the West**  
**Archpriest John Dresko, Director of Communications**  
**Priest Stephen Osburn, Webmaster**  
**Diocesan Website: [www.dowoca.org](http://www.dowoca.org)**  
**[Diocesan Facebook Page](#)**

Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers and Monastics, beloved brothers and sisters:

Since the last assembly, communications within the diocese have continued at a healthy pace. The diocesan webpage has been regularly updated with news from around the diocese, messages from His Eminence, resources about varied and valuable questions and a popular new item, Chancellor's Corner, with Fr. Kirill periodically sharing his thoughts about life around the diocese and items needing attention. The content on the webpage is generally paralleled on the diocesan Facebook and Instagram pages.

Fr. Stephen Osburn has been doing excellent work maintaining these pages and keeping content up to date and relevant. I review and edit when necessary written content that is submitted. We have a set of standards for submittals, making sure content is diocesan related and valuable to readers. Fr. Kirill and I discuss anything of concern before it makes it onto any of our platforms.

Thank you to everyone who sends photos and articles! Although cooperation on parish and deanery levels is good compared to the past, we still have the annual appeal: send articles, pictures, videos, anything that is going on in your parishes and deaneries. Send them to Fr. Stephen at:

[webmaster@dowoca.org](mailto:webmaster@dowoca.org)

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest John Dresko

# EDUCATION

Any number of excellent educational materials are available for use via TOCA, OCEC, and other canonical jurisdiction websites, thus it is redundant and presumptuous for this department to create more curriculum and ways to structure a parish education program.

That being said, it cannot be overstated that ***an educator's personal spiritual growth and organic participation in the Church's life is the single most critical factor in passing on the Orthodox faith to our youth and children.*** Even the best religious education curriculum remains "dead" if it is not incarnated in the life and experience of the educator... If a teacher is instructing a class on the significance of the Baptism of Christ, but is not present at the feast of Theophany, for example, the teaching is near all for naught (c.f. "what thank have ye, even sinners to the same" i.e. pass on mere information)! Parish educators are exhorted to first instruct by example, deed, and participation, then to give word "to that which we have seen and heard" (1 Jn. 1:3), lest our Holy Orthodox faith be reduced to mere data points that children can get at any "church" in town, often in a much more entertaining format.

We must strive to lead our children, youth, and catechumens into ***participation*** in the life of Christ and the Church. This is the beauty and depth of what the Church offers the world.... our children can find Bible stories elsewhere, but no where else can they participate in the events of the Scriptures, and come to know the Saints as extended family in Christ. Parish educators, vested fully in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church, pass on our Living Water, not information.

***Yet more essential is that parents take responsibility to lead their children*** in religious formation and participation. A teacher can encourage, exhort, explain, and themselves participate in the Church's life before their students... but a teacher is rarely in a position to bring students to a Feast or event of the Church (though this is always an option!). For this reason, religious education is maximally effective when it is "lived" in the family. This does not mean that traditional Sunday School classes should be eliminated, but that ***parents are to be encouraged and empowered to see themselves as the primary religious educators of their children.***

There is an ever growing amount of quality Orthodox children's books on the market. These ought be readily available to families via parish bookstores, given as gifts to children in the parish, etc..... By empowering parents to educate their children, the parents themselves are educated!

- a goal of this department is to encourage and exhort educators and parents to an ever fuller participation in the life of the Church.
- a second goal is to encourage purchasing and reading of the ever-growing amount of quality children's books on Orthodoxy.

Archpriest Anthony Karbo

**Diaconal Vocations Program**  
**Report to the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of the West**  
**Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Director**  
**October 13, 2023**

The Diaconal Vocations Program of the Orthodox Church in America continues to prepare men through a process of academic training, spiritual preparation, and practical liturgical training. We are blessed that under the leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, candidates in the Diaconal Vocations process are guided by a “team” that includes the Hierarchs, Deans, the parish priests as primary mentors, as well as experienced deacons. This past year, in my new role as Chancellor of the Diocese of the West, it has been interesting – and I hope helpful – for these two roles to blend a little at the stage of helping someone discern and apply to become a student in the DVP.

I encourage the Fathers to carefully but actively help men in their parishes discern whether the diaconate is something they should pursue. Last Fall, in the Pacific Central Deanery, we held a Saturday lunchtime gathering of “potential” candidates about vocation generally; some of those men have gone to seminary, now, and a couple have joined the DVP. With our small Church, this is good return for the investment of time involved. I am always very happy to have a conversation about the process and the blessings and pitfalls that, experience shows, might lie ahead for anyone pursuing diaconal ministry. May God strengthen us all as we seek to build up the diaconate in Christ!

At this time, there are thirteen registered participants from the Diocese of the West in the Diaconal Vocations Program of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA); about eight of those are actively working on their programs.

In 2023, the annual Practicum was held at the campus of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. Next year’s location is to be determined (after the Diocesan Assembly), but if demand allows for it, I’d love for us to have a practicum here in the West.

Father Andrew Smith has been brought on by the central chancery of the Orthodox Church in America to handle most of the “day to day” responsibilities of managing the DVP. I could not support the Diaconal Vocations Program without his hard work and I express my sincere gratitude to him.

Most of the resources a potential candidate will need to start with can be accessed directly at [oca.org/dvp](http://oca.org/dvp). Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this ministry at both the churchwide and diocesan level. Again, I am happy for any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted, in Christ,

*Archpriest Kirill Sokolov*

Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Ed.D.  
Director, Diaconal and Late Vocations Programs  
Orthodox Church in America  
[dvp@oca.org](mailto:dvp@oca.org); <http://www.oca.org/dvp>

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT TO 2023 DOW ASSEMBLY

The last Assembly occurred during the AAC earlier in the year before the Fall regular session. In addition, there have been several meetings in 2023. This report will summarize each of them.

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The Fall regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council was held in the temporary chancery office in Springfield VA on October 19 and 20, 2022. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and members at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich and Lynnell Brunswig.

Initially, the members were given a tour of the new offices and then the meeting was opened with a prayer by His Beatitude.

**Metropolitan Report:** His Beatitude welcomed everyone to the diocese of the Primate and had all of the members briefly introduce themselves. He gave some comments regarding the transformation of the Metropolitan Council from a “rubber stamp” to an active, participating body with a variety of skills and experience. He made some references to the “Time of Troubles” 1 & 2 and how the active participation of the Metropolitan Council works to protect the church and move it forward.

He reported on the passing of several members who had contributed significantly to the OCA.

He commented on how the church responded to questions about political issues such as Ukraine/Russia and referred to the statements from the Holy Synod.

He discussed the dioceses where he is locum tenens and pointed out that he is now within approximately a half-hour to half of his parishes and able to be more active with them.

He discussed various matters which were happening within the dioceses and stavropegial institutions under his control as well as events throughout the OCA.

He stated that there was a need for better communication with the Pension Board and MC and was pleased that there was work ongoing to improve that. He hoped to confirm the Synodal representative to the Pension Board at the next Holy Synod meeting.

External Orthodox relations were slow now. He met with His Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch. There were tensions among the various Orthodox entities regarding the Ukrainian war which were perhaps equivalent to a cold war.

He had received many comments regarding the AAC and they were generally good but the issue was “did we accomplish anything?”. The AAC activities were focused on the work of the church. He felt that the highlights of the AAC were the election of Bishop Daniel to the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest, the liturgy by the ethnic dioceses, and the decision to provide help to Alaska and Mexico.

He advised that the OCA was in communion with the Russian Patriarchate and Ukrainian Metropolitan Onuphrius.

**Chancellor Report:** Father Alexander reported that the chancery was fully operational in

both Syosset and Springfield. He emphasized that “WE” guide our church. The Metropolitan Council in conjunction with the Holy Synod, the chancery officers and staff and all of the entities work together.

He mentioned the ethnic liturgical services tended to show the unity in the OCA as well as the differences in the celebration. But we are all one faith.

He will reside primarily in NY and Westgate but will spend about a week a month in VA. He has one more class to teach and will then complete his teaching assignment. So, he is working in two and a half locations, including the dining room table in his home as he works remotely.

The chancery has staff throughout North America and much of the work is being accomplished remotely.

He has been an OCA representative to ROCOR, attending such matters as a funeral for a bishop and the enthronement of a new bishop. He is a representative to the World Council of Churches which met in Geneva and is on the central committee. Almost all of the Orthodox churches participate in this as well as some Roman Catholic churches. The OCA is fully recognized in this entity.

He commented on the AAC. It was very good and he thanked many people who were responsible for the development and operation.

**Property report:** The property committee report on the efforts for the sale of the chancery property was given in executive session. After the executive session concluded, it was announced that a motion authorizing the property committee representatives to negotiate with certain parameters had been adopted. If there is a proposed agreement for the sale of the chancery property, it needs to be presented to the MC and Holy Synod and approved before it is effective.

**Secretary report:** Father Alessandro gave his report which was written and attached to the packet which set forth the way that the two chancery offices were working, the coordination with the various committees, boards, etc., They are working on upgrading the technology for the OCA. He has been working with St. Vladimir’s for the transition of the OCA archives. Due to legal requirements, the payments for the work of improvement for the archives at St. Vladimir’s Library has come from the restricted funds and paid by the OCA.

**Pastoral Life report:** Father Nicholas Solak provided a report on the Thriving in Ministry program and Synaxis program.

This was the last year of the TIM grant and they have applied for a matching \$500,000 grant. They have a \$15,000 grant and will start on some new ideas.

The Synaxis program in strengthening and they now have between 35-75 attendees at their events. There will be an in-person national gathering at St. Mary’s in IL on October 17-20, 2023. The cost is \$500 per person and he requests that parishes be asked to budget for this. These events are for active and retired priests and for the Holy Synod. This is voluntary but provides many benefits.

They are also working with the Clergy Wives Advisory Group and trying to provide support for them.

The meeting was adjourned for the day and a training session for new council members was held that evening.

The liturgy was celebrated the next morning at the All Saints of America mission parish, Father Alessandro serving.

Upon the return to the chancery the meeting recommenced.

**AAC report:** Deacon Peter Ilchuk reported on the AAC which was a success. He discussed some of the highlights and the struggles.

He is already working on the 21<sup>st</sup> AAC to be held in 2025. At this time proposals are being requested from San Diego, Phoenix, Kansas City, San Francisco, and Mexico City. Once they have more information about the availability of facilities, the cost, etc., they will narrow the list of sites and present the information to the Metropolitan Council at future meetings. The initial plan for the AAC is to follow the basic plan utilized at the 20<sup>th</sup> AAC. They will absolutely plan to have a children's program.

**Treasurer's report:** Andrew Smith introduced the external audit report which was presented by the representatives from the audit firm. The report found nothing of consequence and their report was approved.

He presented his written report and pointed out the receipts from the dioceses. Some had made partial payments based upon the pandemic pay plan. The current year revenue was at 69% but the Stewards of the OCA campaign was coming up which should provide significant contributions. The current expenses were at 63% but there are some large fourth quarter expenses. In total we are in good shape.

There appears to be no need to withdraw the approved funds from the restricted reserves at this time. The endowment funds are still positive, but are currently down from their highs.

The AAC appears that it will approximately break even. There may be a rebate of some amount from the hotel.

**Internal Auditors:** The proposed internal auditors were approved.

**Pension report:** Melanie Ringa, Pension Board member, and Michael Stieglitz, plan administrator, presented their report on the pension plan. They requested a 4% increase in the parish contribution plus \$9,000 per month from the OCA toward the administrative expenses. The current contributions are less than the current payout amount. Compliance is supposed to be mandatory but is not being enforced. The new computer program in enabling the administrator to provide current retirement information to participants. The receipt of the contributions varies significantly, with some not making contributions for months, not timely, incorrect amounts, etc. All of these create additional issues and delay the compilation of the reports. The requested increase will help stabilize the plan. The proposal takes into account an increase in compliance but not to 100%. The Pension Board realizes that compliance can only be enforced by the Holy Synod and that the MC has been trying to work on that.

David Lane, the MC liaison to the Pension Board, written report was presented regarding the meeting with the Pension Board and the communication with them.

There was extensive discussion concerned the vitality of the Pension Plan, the effect of proposed increases upon the parishes, the effect that enforcement of the mandatory participation would have on the Plan, how to get enforcement of the participation mandate, etc.

The Board approved a 2% increase in the employer contributions effective January 1, 2023

plus an additional 2% effective January 1, 2024, to be reviewed at the regular fall MC meeting with regard to compliance with the participation level..

The MC further adopted a motion to the Holy Synod pointing out that the mandatory participation in the Pension Plan was not enforced, that it was within the province of the Holy Synod to enforce participation and asking that the Holy Synod appoint a committee to meet with members of the MC to work on this issue. The MC committee members Lynnell Brunswig and David Lane, who had been appointed approximately four years prior, were confirmed to remain.

**Pension Committee:** It was determined that the Pension sub-committee be continued as a permanent committee, the Pension Committee, rather than a sub-committee, to analyze the reports from the Pension Board and make recommendations on those reports. The Pension Board is to make their report at least 30 days prior to the scheduled MC meeting so that the Pension Committee may make their recommendations.

**Budget:** Andrew Smith presented the proposed preliminary 2023 budget. After discussion, it was adopted. The OCA will also contribute to the Pension administrative expenses as requested.

**Church Planting Grants:** Fr. Thomas Soroka presented his report on the mission planting grants. They were increased to \$40,000, \$32,000, and \$24,000 for 2023.

**Departments:** Fr. Thomas Soroka presented his written report on the several departments. All were doing pretty well. The Music and Evangelization departments were continuing their work. The Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry were working on increasing their vision and getting to more youth.

The Christian Education is developing a six lesson plan for the book of Acts, a vacation church school program, and a church school curriculum which could be used throughout the OCA.

They are working on an interdepartmental catechism program which is now under review by the Holy Synod. It is a 16 chapter, 400 page, adult catechism program which should be available in December 2022.

The want to increase the availability of Spanish language information.

They may be reorganizing the departments.

They want to update the website.

**Closing:** The meeting was closed with a prayer from His Beatitude.

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The Spring regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council was held by Zoom on March 14 and 16, 2023 with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and members at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich and Lynnell McFarland.

**Metropolitan Report:** His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presented both his written report and a verbal report.

He welcomed new members to participation in their first Metropolitan Council meeting and then detailed his pastoral visits within his own Archdiocese of Washington along with other activities and travel over the past month.

He expressed his gratitude to the OCA officers and Chancery staff for working through the transition from the Syosset Chancery to the new temporary Chancery.

He discussed how well the move of his residence and the temporary chancery to Virginia was working as it was within the Archdiocese of Washington and close to most of the parishes. He is very pleased with the moves and the combination of the onsite and remote workers was working well.

He announced that the Holy Synod has established the Synodal Pension Committee in response to the resolution adopted at the AAC. It consists of three members from the Holy Synod, three from the MC, and three from the Pension Board. The committee is chaired by Archbishop Daniel, and including two other hierarchs, along with three Pension Board members and three members of the Metropolitan Council Pension Committee. He will designate the MC members who will be part of the committee and the PB is to select their representatives. The purpose of this committee is to work to coordinate the enforcement of the Pension Plan rules and preserve the Plan.

He discussed relationship and various events occurring in the various Orthodox institutions and how the OCA was participating with other Orthodox entities.

**Property Committee:** The ongoing efforts to sell the Syosset Chancery property. There is an issue with the Real Property tax, how to contest that valuation, an appraisal, and other matters regarding the sale of the Westwood property. No action was taken on this.

**Legal matters:** In executive session due to the confidentiality of the information provided the MC was brought current. No action was taken.

**Secretary report:** Secretary, Alessandro Margheritino had both a written and oral supplemental; report which highlighted the areas of his oversight or activity including physical office management, information technology, SMPAC, communication, operations, human resources and Archives.

**Preconciliar Commission;** Secretary Margheritino presented a written report from Deacon Peter Ilchuk, All-American Council Manager, that included proposal of initial members of the Preconciliar Commission for the 21st All-American Council (AAC), scheduled for 2025. The proposed members, Fr. Alexander Rentel; Fr. Alessandro Margheritino; Andrew Smith; Fr. Andrew Jarmus, 20th AAC Clergy Chair; Hollie Benton, 20th AAC Lay Chair; Lynnell McFarland, MC Member and 16th AAC Local Committee Lay Chair; Dn. Peter Ilchuk.

There was a discussion of possible sites for the 21st AAC. Bids had been received from only two sites: the Hyatt Regency at Chicago O'Hare and the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, AZ. Concerns were expressed about both potential sites but it was decided to pursue further discussion with the Phoenix site.

**Internal Audit:** The report was presented and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was a general review of the finances by Michael Crofton of the Philadelphia Trust Company, who presented the report on the investment portfolio. There are five accounts which were put into "defensive positions" to protect both against inflation and a possible recession. He projected that there would be inflation with increasing wages in the first half of the year and an improvement in the second half. There were questions regarding the report which were answered and then it was accepted.

The treasurer, Andrew Smith, presented his written report and a proposed amendment to the 2023 budget. The amendment was adopted. This showed that the unaudited investment fund balance had increased while expenditures had decreased.

The final financial report from the 2022 AAC was presented. There was a slight positive

income.. There needs to be some modification to the internal controls since there were undocumented expenditures. He is going to create a checklist to be used in future AACs.

They received a \$50,000 donation which was requested to be restricted to youth activities.

Further consideration of other questions from his report were continued to the following meeting.

**CLOSING OF MEETING:** The meeting was then closed until March 16 with His Beatitude leading a prayer.

The Zoom meeting recommenced on March 16, 2023 with an opening prayer from His Beatitude..

**Chancellor's Report:** Fr. Rentel commented upon his written report. His primary comments concerned the relocation of the chancery, His Beatitude, and some of the staff. It is going well. They are also looking for a potential long term chancery . He also reported that Judge Lanier has decided to retire and there will be a search for a new OCA General Counsel. He is also working on personnel evaluations.

He thanked everyone for condolences received in conjunction with the repose of his father, Archpriest Daniel Rentel

**Treasurer's Report:** The questions from the prior session were discussed and three resolutions were presented.

The first resolution concerned the \$50,000 donation and accepted it as a MC restricted fund. It was not restricted by the express terms of the donation but documents showed that the decedent's family all understood that the intended gift was for youth. Youth activities had been located which would fit within the unspecified intent so the MC adopted the resolution placing a MC restriction of the use of the fund.

The second resolution was to hire professionals to pursue a benefit under the Employee Retention Tax Credit associated with the 2020 CARES Act.

The third resolution regarded a \$120,000 grant which had been received to create/modify the iconostasis for the St. Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow. This has not been able to be accomplished due to the restrictions imposed by the sanctions on Russia. The grantor wanted the gift to be returned since the purpose can't be accomplished. The return of the restricted gift was approved.

**OCA Pension Plan:** His Beatitude presented a written report with his thoughts about the OCA Pension Plan and the need for protection of our clergy. He stressed that this is a very important requirement for the protection of our clergy and that an acceptable solution was required. He said that there was a need for transparency but questions needed to be asked without personal attacks.

Archpriest John Dresko and Melanie Ringa, Pension Board trustees, presented the written report which was responsive to questions contained in the MC Pension Committee review of the prior written Pension Board report. The main issues raised concerned the participation in the Plan. Participation is expressly mandatory and the PB is contending that parishes without clergy or with ineligible clergy needs to contribute toward the Plan. Their proposal is to assess a reasonable amount for the services rendered and contend that they have the right to interpret the Plan documents to provide for this. There was extensive discussion about this.

Archbishop Daniel, the chair of the Holy Synod Pension Committee and a member of the PB presented some information regarding the Holy Synod Pension Committee.

**Chancery property:** A motion was made that a licensed appraiser be hired to present an appraisal for the chancery property. There was a motion to table this to the next regular MC meeting and to refer it to the Property Committee.

**Adjournment:** His Beatitude expressed his appreciation for the work done during the sessions and the attention to the Pension Plan. The meeting was closed with a prayer from His Beatitude.

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The First Special Session of the Metropolitan Council was held by Zoom on May 4, 2023, with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan lay member David Lane, and member at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich.

The sole purpose of this special meeting was to approve the location of the 21<sup>st</sup> AAC. Fr. Alessandro presented the information and the location at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix Arizona on July 14 through 18, 2025, was passed.

The meeting was closed with a prayer from His Beatitude.

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The Second Special Session of the Metropolitan Council was held by Zoom on September 6, 2023 with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and member at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich.

The sole purpose of this special meeting was to receive information regarding the sales efforts for the sale of the chancery. Due to the confidential material nature of sales and negotiation efforts, the matter was discussed in executive session and no decision was reached.

The meeting was closed with a prayer from His Beatitude.

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The Fall session of the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council will be held over three days; September 28 by Zoom and then on October 11 and 12 at the location of the temporary chancery in Springfield Virginia. The second day, October 11 will be a joint session with the Pension Board and will be devoted entirely to the OCA Pension Plan.

The first session of the Fall regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council was held by Zoom on September 28, 2023, with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and members at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich and Lynnell McFarland.

**Metropolitan report:** His Beatitude had a written report which was a log of his activities. He also made statements elaborating upon his activities and observations. He announced the passing of several valued members of the OCA.

He discussed some of his travels, in particular to Alaska and Canada and reminded everyone of the need to continue to support the Alaskan parishes and priests as they are a vital part of the OCA and have serious financial difficulties.

He continued to work with the locum tenens dioceses and was pleased to announce that he was able to consecrate Bishop Nikodhim to the Albanian Archdiocese and that the Diocese of New England anticipates making a nomination for bishop soon.

There is some global dissension and tension among the worldwide Orthodox church and he is working with others toward a greater collaborative situation.

The pension is needed and there needs to be a resolution and transparency. The upcoming joint session should be very helpful in this regard. The reports will be posted for the members to read and everyone is encouraged to read them, reflect on them, and be prepared to participate in the joint session. The MC members need to share pension information with their diocese and members of the PB have been willing to come to the assemblies and assist.

The integration of the chancery continues and is a good step.

The work on the AAC is progressing well. A potential theme, not yet finalized, is “Gathered Together by Christ”. More information will be forthcoming.

The pending retirement of Judge Lanier as the General Council has resulted in a search for someone to fill that position although it is recognized that it will be impossible to “replace” him.

There have been many discussions about question on how to help the church and these are continuing.

He expressed his thanks to all those who help him and the Church.

The Holy Synod is getting information regarding the non-compliance with the mandatory participation and the PB and bishops are trying to improve that as will be discussed in more detail at the next session.

**Office of Pastoral Life:** Father Nickolas Solak and Fr. Stephan Vernak reported on the programs under this office in addition to their written report.

Thriving in Ministry - The grant for this program is completed and they are working on a sustainability grant. At this time there are 25 groups with a total of 128 clergy and wives. The goal is to get to at least 30 groups. The program has been very successful and it should continue

National Clergy in-person Synaxis - this program is in its fourth year. There are quarterly presentations which have between 40 - 80 attendees. It is going well and expansion is hoped.

Clergy Wives and Widows - these are two related programs with the widows recently becoming involved with the wives program. It is online meeting with some in-person meetings with leadership. It has been expanding and is providing good results.

National Clergy Retreat - The retreat is set for October 17-20 in Chicago. 128 clergy have reserved spots. They had hoped for 150, but this is a good showing. Based upon the comments which they have received they tentatively plan on having additional ones approximately 18-20 months after each AAC.

Economic Challenge for Pastoral Leaders - they are applying for a Lilly Grant which they are hopeful to receive since they were asked to apply for the grant. Basically, this will be regarding

financial issues, plans, and relief. Specifically, it has two primary aspects: 1) financial planning information and 2) financial relief. The financial planning would be coaching particularized to specific individuals/families. The financial relief would have payments toward, for example, educational loans but may extend to other debts. It would not address new needs but is intended to try to relieve current financial distress.

**Chancellor report:** There was a written report regarding the efforts, travels, etc., with verbal emphasis on some matters.

He was in Ukraine from August 14-22. There were meetings, concelebrations, etc., including with Metropolitan Onuphrius. The Ukrainian Metropolitship has declared its independence from the Russian Patriarchate but has not declared autocephaly. There are Ukrainian clergy who want to come to the US and some talk of wanting a Ukrainian Deanery or Diocese but the Holy Synod has not addressed the establishment of such ethnic entity. The issue of Ukrainian clergy coming to OCA parishes would addressed on an individual basis.

Reports about the state of the Ukrainian Orthodox should come from them, not from political sources.

He reported on the ongoing general council search. There have been many applications and interviews. He was assisted with this search by a group of Orthodox attorneys which he thanked for their assistance. The process is in the final stages now.

The ORSMA coordinator recently passed. This is the third coordinator in the past four years and he has assumed that responsibility for now.

**Property Committee:** They reported in executive session on the progress and events concerning the possible sale of the chancery property. No decisions were made.

**Secretary report:** There was a written report regarding his activities. He reported on the progress on moving the chancery. There has been much progress made and the temporary chancery is functioning well. As part of that they are in the process of working to reduce the expense in Syosett.

There has been a lot of work toward the AAC trying to resolve the theme, agenda, presentations, youth program, etc. This is proceeding as it should.

The archives are being moved to SVOTS. The new storage has been completed. They have already moved 800 boxes and the remaining 700 boxes are scheduled to be moved on October 10. The remaining items which will be moved from Syosset can be moved in passenger vehicles and it will not be necessary to hire moving companies for that.

**Mission Planting Grants:** there were three applications for the first year matching planting grant, all from the DOS. There was a recommendation to accept one of these and that was accepted. There were two second year grant applications from the parishes which received them last year (there were two first year applications accepted last year since there was no second year application) which were also approved.

**Closing:** His Beatitude adjourned the meeting to October 11 with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

For the DOW members of the Metropolitan Council  
David Lane, DOW lay member

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT TO 2023 DOW ASSEMBLY -  
SUPPLEMENTAL**

The final portion of the Fall session of the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council was held on October 11 and 12 in Springfield Virginia and commenced with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and members at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich and Lynnell McFarland.

**Metropolitan report:** His Beatitude welcomed everyone and pointed out that this was a joint session with the Pension Board pursuant to the resolution which was adopted at the last AAC and was limited to consideration of the OCA Pension Plan for clergy and employees. He stressed that there needed to be cooperation for the benefit of all. The first portion was to be a training session regarding the pension plan in further compliance with the AAC resolution.

**Pension Plan training:** The presenter was James Heinzman, CPA who specializes in representing companies with retirement plans.

He initially explained the differences in various retirement plans. Our plan is a defined benefit plan which means that the benefits are paid pursuant to a formula which, in essence, places the risk of the investment returns on the employer. The members of the Pension Board and, most likely, the members of the Metropolitan Council are fiduciaries for the Plan. However, he is not an attorney and is not giving legal advice. The Plan, as a church plan, is not covered by the federal ERISA law.

He discussed the income versus the outflow and pointed out that the total income (contributions plus investment gains) had to at least equal the outflow (benefits paid plus expenses) or any plan would ultimately fail.

At this time most plans are expected to average investment gains of 7% over a number of years. It is necessary that the plan performance be based upon the appropriate rate of return over years as this fluctuates greatly from year-to-year.

The Plan should be fully funded, if possible, and, if not attempts should be made to improve the funding level. Since our plan is not fully funded there needs to be a plan with a set program to reach an acceptable level of funding. This would come with assistance from the actuary company who will have modeling programs which will show how various changes will affect the plan. He had a brief demonstration of how this type of program would show funding progress.

He answered multiple questions throughout his presentation and stayed into the afternoon session to be of further assistance with additional questions.

**Metropolitan report:** His Beatitude made a fuller report when the afternoon session commenced. He discussed again the significance of the joint meeting and the need for attention to the Pension Plan for the benefit of our clergy and employees.

He welcomed the new members and advised of the passing of some who had worked tirelessly for the OCA. He led everyone in Memory Eternal in recognition of those members.

He elaborated upon the upcoming discussions and said that he expected results, reminding

everyone that it was necessary to be honest in the discussions and put everything in context of the Church as a whole. He had reviewed the history of the Pension plan from 1950 through 1981 and summarized it. The Plan was initially adopted in 1973 after years of discussion and work. The members attending the Sobors and AACs all were united about the need for the retirement plan and concluded that it was to be mandatory. His Beatitude said that actions contrary to the mandate for participation in the Plan were not acceptable.

He pointed out that Mr. Heinzman had made it clear that this was a math problem which needed to be resolved. The figures needed to be explained transparently. Questions needed to be addressed and answered as everyone needs to know the “pieces” which comprise the Plan and performance. Everyone needs to work together for the good of the OCA clergy, widows, and employees.

**Pension Board report:** Board member Melanie Ringa presented the previously submitted written report as well as responding to the Metropolitan Council Pension Committee’s report. She emphasized that the current investment return through August 2023 was 8.99%, net of fees. The funding ratio dropped from 50% to 38% last year, 2022, as the stock market had the major loss.

The new actuarial company has finished the report through December 31, 2022 and are working on 2023 as well as a modeling program which will permit them to check to see what adjustments will do.

At this time there are 366 members in the Plan. Their research indicates that there are 308 parishes/entities who are not participating in the Plan. This was subject to questions and the Pension Board and the OCA administration will try to reach a mutual conclusion about the number which are not participating.

They have changed their audit firm and want to coordinate with the OCA audit.

They have a new payroll provider in an attempt to streamline the process.

The MARC system is able to permit parishes and participants to receive and pay the contribution statements online in addition to permitting online access about the individual account.

There has been a need to withdraw funds from the investments over the past few years in order to pay the benefits. All benefits have been paid on-time. The amount which has been withdrawn from the investments is from the lower/cash portion of the investment accounts and the withdrawals have not only decreased during the year but it appears that they will be able to transfer around \$100,000 back to the greater investments at the end of the year.

There were several withdrawals, approximately \$830,000, from retired/former participants who wanted their contributions back and they were able to make those payments from the cash account without additional withdrawals from the main investment accounts.

The administrative expense did increase but the final payment for the MARC program will be paid this year and the administrative expense should decrease next year.

Some additional parishes without participating clergy have started to make the mandatory contributions.

**Pension Committee report:** The Pension Committee written report had been previously filed. Most of the questions and comments had been discussed during the Pension Board report.

An extended discussion followed.

A motion to defer the 2% employer increase was defeated.

A motion to confirm the 2% employer increase commencing January 1, 2024 was passed.

A motion to deposit the monthly \$9,000 for the Pension administrative expense into a trust account to be held for the for future Pension administrative expense was defeated. These expenditures are already in the budget.

The meeting was adjourned for the day with a prayer from His Beatitude..

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The meeting recommenced with an opening prayer from His Beatitude. In attendance from the Diocese of the West were Diocesan Clergy member, Fr. Matthew Tate, Diocesan lay member David Lane, and members at-large Fr. Lawrence Margitich and Lynnell McFarland.

**Metropolitan report:** His Beatitude commented briefly on the previous day's meeting and the cooperation which had bene shown.

**Property Committee:** They reported in executive session on the progress and events concerning the possible sale of the chancery property. No decisions were made. It was reported after the executive session closed that a motion for an immediate appraisal of the chancery property had been defeated.

**Legal report:** They reported on current and potential legal matters. No action was taken. The Chancellor reported that they were in the final stages of the selection of a new General Council as Judge Lanier is retiring after many years.

**Treasurers report:** The finances were generally positive. The finance department has been restructured and the new process has improved the proceedings.

The audit report was that no problems were found. All requested documents and information had been produced but there had been a delay due primarily to the inability to initially get the Pension Plan audit report. In addition, there was some footnotes which need to be clarified. The motion to approve the report subject to the finalization of the footnotes.

The 2023 budget had contemplated the use of some funds from unrestricted funds and that has not proved necessary at this time.

The 2024 proposed budget was presented and discussed. It was passed as presented and will be reviewed at the 2024 spring meeting.

A current five year loan in the amount of \$150,000 to OCCIF had matured and it was renewed.

**Closing matters:** A statement of appreciation to the Pension Board for their cooperation and agreement to provide disclosures and a funding plan for the Pension was passed.

The issue of the location for the 2024 Spring meeting was raised. After discussion, a straw

poll was taken which showed that the members unanimously thought that it needed to be in person particularly since the actuary report for the Pension Plan will be considered at that meeting.

**Closing:** His Beatitude closed the regular Fall session with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

For the DOW members of the Metropolitan Council  
David Lane, DOW lay member

## Department of Youth Ministries Report to the Diocesan Assembly

October 2023

### **Introduction**

The Department of Youth Ministries for the Diocese of the West is structured such that the Deaneries of the Diocese each run their own youth ministry activities. Funds are set aside in the Diocesan Budget to assist these efforts. In addition, as Director of the Department, I am available for consultations by parishes and deaneries when questions arise. I am also in communication with our OCA's Central Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

### **Camping Programs**

The Diocese currently has the following camps

- St Eugene's Orthodox Youth Camp
- Pacific Northwest Orthodox Youth Camp
- Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp
- Montana Monastery Work Week

For the past year I have met with the Camp Directors and there is a perceived need for common resources. Many of the resources that currently exist have not been updated for quite a while.

The group is working to develop updated volunteer and participant forms that better fit the current legal requirements for camping programs.

The group is also asking for help to provide online tools for parents to register their children and for directors to maintain and organize the plethora of forms required. These systems also make maintaining communication with the various groups that are often spread out over large geographic areas a bit easier. The group has submitted a request to the Diocesan Council to pay for an online system currently being used in other Orthodox jurisdictions in America that can be used by all our camps.

Our Diocese is blessed to have the Directors of these programs who work incredible amounts of hours planning and running these programs in addition to their other responsibilities in our Diocese. We need to do our best to support them in every way we can.

The Monastery of St. John  
of Shanghai and San Francisco  
Orthodox Church in America



**Diocesan Report for 2022-2023**

The Brotherhood of St John Monastery continues our life of prayer and repentance in the beautiful foothills of the Cascades in Northern California. We are grateful for the many faithful believers who support our ministry through prayer and financial support. The brotherhood continues its efforts to improve our monastery facility and offer hospitality to visitors, as well as laboring in our industries to support ourselves by the work of our own hands.

Our brotherhood currently consists of 4 monastics. Igumen Innocent (Superior) and Novice Jason reside at St John's, while Hieromonk Photios and R-Monk Valentine reside in Cape Coral, FL and San Carlos, CA, respectively, for health reasons.

In June of this year, Stavrophore Monk John (Romanzov), a long-time member of our brotherhood reposed. The funeral and burial were held here at the monastery. May he inherit Paradise.

Over the past year, we continued to cut and remove trees to strengthen the fire breaks between the monastery buildings and the surrounding forest. We hosted a retreat for clergy wives in November of 2022. It was well-received and we plan to do this again in 2023. Our own monastery book printing ministry, Divine Ascent Press, in collaboration with a number of authors and editors, completed a new book during the summer of this year. *Roads Less Traveled, Journeys to Orthodoxy* is an anthology of stories of people who discovered and converted to the Orthodox faith from a variety of backgrounds.

We continue to face the challenge of maintaining our monastic life with fewer and fewer able-bodied monks to bear the work. Built to accommodate 30 monks, our extensive monastery buildings require maintenance that we can scarcely keep up with. Our chief concern has been to generate enough finances to make our monthly payments on the mortgage. With the rising cost of insurance against wildfire risk (required because of our loan), we are all the more hard-pressed to meet our financial obligations. This leaves us with few resources to provide much-needed physical maintenance on the buildings (dome repair, re-roofing, re-painting). We have recently adjusted our product prices (candles, bookstore merchandise) to help cover these rising baseline expenses.

In the coming year, with God's help, we expect to invite more parishes and volunteers to assist on various projects. We plan to renovate our guesthouse. This would include re-wiring the electrical, installing new insulation and drywall, re-painting, and re-flooring. We plan to host a young adult retreat: the Orthodox LIFE School for a week in June of 2024.

The Brotherhood continues to support itself by producing and selling beeswax candles, running a bookstore (on location and online), producing a quarterly newsletter, publishing Orthodox literature through Divine Ascent Press, and offering hospitality to visiting pilgrims.

Respectfully submitted,

Igumen Innocent, Superior

Monastery of St John, Manton, CA  
Financial Summary: August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 through July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

Income:

Donations:	89,965.00
Candle Sales:	137,378.17
Bookstore Sales:	13,960.89
Divine Ascent Press Sales:	12,928.11
Shipping:	17,690.76
Total Income:	271,922.93

Expenses:

Mortgage Payments:	56,938.44
Insurance (Buildings, liability, workman's comp):	49,874.63
Wages for employees:	41,960.92
Business, Household, Other:	152,290.02

**PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX MONASTERY**  
2343 County Road 403 (*physical location*) Lake George, CO 80827  
P.O. Box 416 (*mailing address*)  
Phone 719-748-3999

**2023 REPORT TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**

We give thanks to our Lord for the past fiscal year which has been both peaceful, and busy.

At the beginning of the year, in August 2022, the newly constructed church at the Monastery, dedicated to the Protection of the Theotokos, was consecrated. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, was assisted at the consecration by His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, and His Grace, Bishop Andre. A number of very practical concerns prevented us from announcing the date of the consecration ahead of time, so the number of faithful and guests present at the event was quite limited.

We give thanks to the Lord for moving the hearts of so many individuals and parishes who sacrificed to support the building of the new church. While we are still without a resident priest, we are grateful to the clergy who come whenever possible to serve Divine Liturgy at the Monastery. When no priest is present, reader services are done daily.

Since the former “temporary” chapel in the main Monastery building had never been consecrated we were able to convert it into a much needed library/trapeza. The work was done by a neighbor who is a retired carpenter as funds were available and has only recently been completed.

Once the library was relocated we were able to use the area it previously occupied for the expansion of our bookstore/gift shop. We had not ordered any new publications over the past few years due to the covid shut-downs and anticipating the reorganization of the bookstore. We still have a number of books in stock that are out of print, and we plan to reorder and increase our inventory in the coming year, God willing.

Our small publication, *The Veil*, continues to be mailed to interested readers and donors three times a year.

We are very grateful for the past 30 years since we have come into the God-protected Diocese of the West, and we ask that you continue to remember this Monastery in your petitions to our Savior.

**Financial summary 8/1/22-7/31/23**

*Income:* Operating account, Bookstore, Church Building Fund \$100,831.20

*Expenses:* Operating account, Bookstore, Church Building Fund \$132,614.47

Please note that the excess of expenses over income in the fiscal year was covered by existing balances in all three accounts. The bulk of the excess expenses was from the Church Building Fund. There are no outstanding debts, loans or mortgages.

Respectfully Submitted  
Nun Cassiana



Our Lady of Kazan Skete

2735 Victoria Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

August 31, 2021

Your Eminence and Your Grace, dear Masters, bless.

By God's mercy, at this time there are seven sisters and one postulant in our community.

Also by God's mercy, this past year we received the great blessing of the Divine Services in our chapel, and other opportunities to endeavor to partake of monastic life. Some repair and maintenance work was done on building structures, and work towards reducing fire hazards. Other continued endeavors included baking prosphora, care-giving, making prayer-ropes, yard and garden work, and working with harvests. If God grants, we hope to continue similarly in the coming year.

Summary financial report for 8/1/2020 to 7/31/2021:

Income: \$208,293.11      Expenses: \$163,197.81

Again this year we must thank our Lord most deeply for Your Eminence's and Your Grace's much-needed archpastoral guidance, support and prayers in these difficult times, and for all the Diocese's generous support, prayers and help. With gratitude we ask for the continuance of these prayers, and for Your Eminence's and Your Grace's archpastoral blessing.

Respectfully submitted with love in Christ,

*Abbess Susanna*

**Diocesan Report for 2022-2023**

This past year marked the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of our Monastery. We glorify God Who has richly blessed our monastic community throughout these many years!

The census of our community remains the same as last year: three stavrophors, one ryassaphor, one novice and one “lay sister.” We also have an Orthodox lay person, an elderly lady, staying with us temporarily but on a long-term basis. From time to time throughout the year, we also have provided space temporarily for one or two homeless persons.

Our priest, Fr. Jude Lepine, serves the Divine Liturgy in the monastery church of SS. Barbara and Eugene on Sundays and Great Feasts except during the summer months. When there is no priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the monastery the sisters travel to various Orthodox churches in the area. Fr. Paul Waisanen, now retired and living in Texas, continues to serve as the sisters’ confessor until other arrangements can be made. We are most grateful for his faithful and attentive pastoral care despite his own serious health issues

The monastery receives many visitors. Some come for “retreats” of anywhere from a week to a single day. Others come on short trips to attend services and visit with the sisters or simply to spend some time in the monastery environment.

This summer our monastery hosted Rev. Deacon Benjamin Garcia and his family for two months while he served as an intern at nearby St. Herman Church in Oxnard. He has now returned to St. Tikhon’s Seminary for his final year of studies.

As most every summer, our monastery hosted a large group of teens and their chaperones (56 persons!) from St. Andrew Church in Riverside for a workday. This consisted of church services, a talk by one of the sisters, a shared meal and an array of tasks (from polishing brass to picking and processing fruit) performed together with the sisters.

Our monthly Friends’ Gatherings continue as they have in past years with anywhere from 45 to 80 people attending mostly from area Orthodox churches of various jurisdictions. These gatherings consist of a lecture, usually presented by one of the area clergy, Vespers, and a potluck supper.

Other major activities this past year included 1) operating a booth at the Camarillo Greek Festival in June, 2023,, where the sisters offered Orthodox books and monastery products for sale, and 2) the lavender harvest for fresh lavender in July and for oil in August.-September, 2022.

Although the following two events occurred after the close of the fiscal year covered by this report, we wish to add that the monastery suffered no serious damage in either the tropical storm or the earthquake that occurred on Sunday, August 20, 2023. (The epicenter was 2 miles up the road from the monastery.)

We give thanks to God for His continued blessings on our small efforts to live the monastic life and to establish this monastic community to His glory.

Respectfully submitted,  
Abbess Victoria

*St. Barbara Orthodox Monastery  
15799 Santa Paula – Ojai Rd.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060-9516*

805-921-1563

*sbmonastery@gmail.com*

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Summary Financial Report

8/1/22 – 7/31/23

Balance Forward: \$ 163,925.15

Total Income:     \$ 204,380.04  
                           \$ 368,305.19

Total Expenses:   \$ 256,055.85  
Final Balance:      \$ 112,249.34

## **Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga – Annual Report for 2022-2023**

Currently living at the monastery are Abbess Melania; Stavrophor nuns Tabitha, Macrina, Monica, Angelina, Ioanna, Birgitta, Anna, and Elizabeth; Ryassaphor Marie; Novice Brigid; and Laywomen Isidora and Gwyn. (Stavrophors Birgitta, Anna, and Elizabeth, who were tonsured in July 2023, had previously been Ryassaphors Priskilla, Hannah, and Theodosia. Novice Brigid also joined us in July 2023.)

By God's grace, the new St. Nicholas House was completed in June 2023 and the sisters moved in. In addition to the money we raised, we took a \$400,000 loan from Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF), which will come due in 2027. So, we will continue to raise funds to cover that in addition to raising further funds for the acquisition of a nearby property in order to have room for visitors and eventually a priest.

COVID restrictions have been lifted, but we continue to livestream all our services, as several shut-ins have expressed great appreciation for being able to watch them. We have continued to do Zoom retreats, but due to various logistical problems, we are not doing them monthly. We are considering going back to live retreats in 2023-2024, but have not made a decision yet.

Mother Melania continues to teach Christian education classes with the Classical Resource Learning Center, along with giving live retreats both at the monastery and at churches in California and other states.

Our attempts to support ourselves are ongoing. Bookstore sales have continued to increase slowly. Calistoga Orthodox Wine is slowly increasing in sales. The combination of our various ventures and support from faithful friends has kept our operating fund in the black. Considering the uncertain economic times, we are deeply grateful to God and to the support of our friends that we are doing as well as we are.

The overall health of the community is good. As mentioned above, we have tonsured three ryassaphors as stavrophors and have received a new novice. Our relationship with our Calistoga neighbors and the larger Orthodox community continues to be a great blessing to us. We are grateful to all our friends and to God, Who continues to bless us in these challenging days.

Holy Assumption Monastery

Profit & Loss by Class

July 2022 through June 2023

	Operating	Property Projects (Restricted)	SNH & Outbiding Renovations (Restricted)	Restricted - Other (Restricted)	Total Restricted	Unclassified	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>							
Income							
41100 - Unrestricted Tithes/Offerings	179,360.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	179,360.68
41200 - In-Kind Income	1,976.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,976.50
41300 - Honorarium	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
41400 - Royalty Income	2,168.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,168.82
41500 - COW Disbursement	5,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,500.00
41800 - Building Fund	0.00	0.00	290,115.64	0.00	290,115.64	0.00	290,115.64
41900 - Other Designated Donations							
41910 - Designated Charitable Contrib	240.00	25,005.00	939.62	0.00	25,944.62	0.00	26,184.62
41970 - Non-HAM Benefit	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00
41980 - Other Designated Donations - Other	95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00
<b>Total 41900 - Other Designated Donations</b>	<b>335.00</b>	<b>25,005.00</b>	<b>939.62</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>27,944.62</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,379.62</b>
48100 - Religious Bookstore Items	59,406.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,406.25
48200 - Unrelated Bookstore Items	66,892.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,892.13
49600 - Interest Income	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
49800 - Product Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
49900 - Uncategorized - refunds/other	6,099.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,099.25
66320 - Benfactory/Bookstore Shipping	6,382.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,382.71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>332,121.52</b>	<b>25,005.00</b>	<b>291,055.26</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>317,160.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>649,281.78</b>
Cost of Goods Sold							
68100 - Religious Bookstore Merchandise	31,389.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,389.20
68200 - Unrelated Bookstore Merchandise	35,348.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,348.81
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>66,738.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>66,738.01</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>265,383.51</b>	<b>25,005.00</b>	<b>291,055.26</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>317,160.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>582,543.77</b>
Expense							
11000 - Cash/ATM Withdrawal	913.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	913.98
11500 - In Kind Expense	1,976.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,976.50
435123 - Bank Fees	2,404.38	0.00	472.15	1,732.28	2,204.43	0.00	4,606.81
48000 - Sisterhood Clothing/Shoes/Misc	7,010.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,010.63
49200 - Publishing/Storytelling Program	1,944.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,944.90
60300 - Visa Tax Expense	79.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.67
60900 - Advertising and Promotion	1,877.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,877.82
61400 - Charitable Contributions	21,452.31	0.00	0.00	155.78	155.78	0.00	21,608.09
61410 - Gifts (to Friends)	5,984.04	0.00	0.00	181.27	181.27	0.00	6,165.31
61800 - Prescription/medication purchases	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00
62500 - Dues and Subscriptions	1,106.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,106.45
62700 - Liturgical Supplies							
62710 - Candles	1,247.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,247.36
62720 - Incense & Coal	86.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.60
62730 - Liturgical Music & Books	513.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	513.89
62760 - Chapel Flowers	918.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	918.25
62790 - Liturgical Supplies - Other	900.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.47
<b>Total 62700 - Liturgical Supplies</b>	<b>3,066.57</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,066.57</b>
62800 - Monastery Property & Equipment							
62801 - Caskets	5,308.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,308.78
62810 - Repairs and Maintenance	14,472.05	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	15,472.05
62820 - Landscaping & Garden Expenses	2,913.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,913.46
62840 - Kid Pond	420.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.60
62850 - Icons	163.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	163.17
62860 - Property Development	1,446.43	0.00	1,296,178.67	0.00	1,296,178.67	0.00	1,296,625.10
62870 - Property Insurance	8,313.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,313.00
62880 - Property Taxes	195.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195.26
62890 - Utilities							
62891 - Water, Sewer	9,787.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,787.82
62892 - Gas & Electric	21,591.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,591.79
62893 - Trash Disposal	2,898.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,898.71
<b>Total 62800 - Utilities</b>	<b>34,276.32</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34,276.32</b>
67000 - Small Tools and Equipment	645.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645.14
68000 - Monastery Property & Equipment - Other	0.00	0.00	3,108.11	0.00	3,108.11	0.00	3,108.11
<b>Total 62800 - Monastery Property &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>67,244.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,300,286.78</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,300,286.78</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,367,530.97</b>
64700 - Groceries & Household Goods							
64702 - Fabric and Crafts	63.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.55
64703 - Appliances	42.58	0.00	0.00	5,105.00	5,105.00	0.00	5,147.58
64705 - Event Costs	3,163.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,163.21
64700 - Groceries & Household Goods - Other	33,991.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,991.29
<b>Total 64700 - Groceries &amp; Household Goods</b>	<b>37,260.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,105.00</b>	<b>5,105.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>42,365.63</b>
64800 - Miscellaneous	2,938.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,938.42
65000 - Operations							
65020 - Postage and Delivery	9,180.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,180.27
65030 - Printing and Reproduction	7,551.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,551.16
65040 - Office Supplies	2,395.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,395.56
65050 - Telephone	2,466.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,466.75
65070 - Computer and Internet Expenses	8,504.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,504.88
<b>Total 65000 - Operations</b>	<b>30,998.62</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,998.62</b>
65100 - Other Expense							
65100 - Interest Expense	0.00	0.00	7,098.17	0.00	7,098.17	0.00	7,098.17
65140 - Pet Care	5,701.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,701.54
65160 - Guest Lodging	13,200.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,200.60
<b>Total 65100 - Other Expense</b>	<b>18,901.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,098.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,098.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,999.71</b>
65200 - Outside Services							
65060 - Professional Fees	2,254.64	0.00	2,409.00	0.00	2,409.00	0.00	4,663.64
<b>Total 65200 - Outside Services</b>	<b>2,254.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,409.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,409.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,663.64</b>
66700 - Priest Stipend	7,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,900.00
66901 - *Reconciliation Discrepancies	-1.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.31
68320 - Travel							
68321 - Automobile Insurance	3,016.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,016.27
68322 - Auto Repair & Maintenance	712.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712.87
68323 - Auto License Renewal	795.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	795.00
68324 - Gasoline & tolls	7,667.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,667.92
68325 - Bus/Train/Cab Transportation	904.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	904.03
68326 - Lodging	91.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.63
68327 - Meals	1,548.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,548.01
68328 - Parking	93.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.60
68329 - Loan Payment	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
68330 - Entrance Fees	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
68331 - Auto Misc	1,199.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.94
68330 - Travel - Other	3,095.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,095.17
<b>Total 68320 - Travel</b>	<b>19,844.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>19,844.44</b>
69000 - Education	1,744.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,744.25
70000 - Healthcare							
70100 - Health Insurance	4,119.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,119.00
70200 - Doctor Fees & Copays	3,771.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,771.07
70300 - Rx and Other Medicines	7,838.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,838.88
70000 - Healthcare - Other	395.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	395.41
<b>Total 70000 - Healthcare</b>	<b>16,114.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,114.36</b>
71009 - Sales Tax Adjustment	3.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.83
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>252,160.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,310,266.10</b>	<b>7,174.33</b>	<b>1,317,440.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,569,601.27</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>13,222.67</b>	<b>25,005.00</b>	<b>-1,019,210.84</b>	<b>-6,074.33</b>	<b>-1,000,280.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-987,057.50</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>							
Other Income							
41900 - Capital Gains/Losses	-7.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.59
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-7.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-7.59</b>
Other Expense							
66500 - Government Taxes & Fees							
66820 - Other Government Fees	8,194.00	0.00	715.65	0.00	715.65	0.00	8,909.65
66850 - Government Taxes & Fees - Other	3,637.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,637.00
<b>Total 66800 - Government Taxes &amp; Fees</b>	<b>11,831.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>715.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>715.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,546.65</b>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>11,831.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>715.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>715.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,546.65</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-11,838.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-715.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-12,554.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-12,554.24</b> </

# The Orthodox Monastery of St. John the Baptist

stjohnthebaptistaz.org | sjb.brotherhood@gmail.com | (520) 200-7322

## Diocesan Report for 2022–2023

With thanksgiving to God, we respectfully submit this report regarding the past year of life in our monastery for the 2023 diocesan assembly. By God’s mercy and grace our monastery has been blessed during the past year. We were able to continue our daily cycle of services including the Midnight Office, Matins, or 3rd Hour, 6th Hour, & Typica, on Monday–Thursday; Vespers or Compline on Sunday–Thursday; Vigil Saturday; and Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days. We continue to pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation so that heavenly peace and joy will flourish in our midst.

We continue to sell a wide selection of icons, prayer ropes, crosses, and other items through online channels to bring income and bless our customers. We are in the process of bringing new products to market made with a CNC machine, as well as expanding our icon selection.

Our monastery currently consists of eight monks: Abbot Macarius, Monk Gabriel, Monk Paul, Monk Moses, Monk Cyril, Monk Stephen, Hieromonk Raphael, and Monk Emmanuel, along with three novices and one postulant.

In the coming year we look forward to continuing our witness to the world through prayer, receiving visitors, and sanctifying our lives for the glory of God.

### Summary Financial Report:

Balance forward (w/ building fund): \$343,499.64

Income: \$389,964.51

Expenses: \$146,130.99

Final balance: \$587,333.16

Respectfully submitted,  
Hieromonk Raphael

# DOW – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

*for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly*

## Parish Name and Address

## Photo

St. John the Forerunner Orthodox Chapel  
Blinder Memorial Chapel  
San Jacinto Rd.,  
Camp Pendleton CA 92055

## Clergy

Archpriest Jerome Cwiklinski

## Committees/Societies

N/A

## Since August 2022

### Highlights of Top Three Activities

- Visit of Archbishop BENJAMIN, 26 and 27 August 2023
- Outdoor Great Blessing of Waters at Lake O'Neill on Camp Pendleton at Epiphany
- Recommencement of services at MCAGCC 29 Palms, dormant since COVID

### Outreach and Charitable Activities

- Weekly outreach and witness to Marine Recruits at MCRD San Diego – serving Resurrectional Matins every Sunday to audience of up to 40 Recruits.
- Participation by Chapel members in Walk-for-Life and Right-to-Life Vigils

### Major Challenges Faced

- Making personnel aware of the Orthodox Chapel and fostering participation
- Orthodox who are locked-down in training, unable to attend Orthodox services
- Misunderstanding and underestimation of the ministry of Orthodox Chaplains

## Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - August 2023 to September 2024

2023 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> year of Orthodox Chapels on Camp Pendleton. His Eminence' visit for the Chapel's pastoral Feast on the Beheading of St. John the Baptist was in celebration of that milestone.

# DOW – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

*for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly*

	Reported for Calendar Year 2021	Reported for Calendar Year 2022	As of August 1, 2023
Adult Parishioners	20	12	17
Child (under 18) Parishioners	8	6	11
Adult Voting Members	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Reported for Calendar Year 2021	Reported for Calendar Year 2022	January 1 thru August 1, 2023
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	24	18	21
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	21	15	18
Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	6	4	6
Number of Catechumens	7	1	3
	Reported for Calendar Year 2021	Reported for Calendar Year 2022	January 1 thru August 1, 2023
Infant Baptisms	1	3	0
Adult Baptisms	0	1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	3	0	0
Number Enrolled in Church School	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number Participating in Adult Education	3	2	4
Marriages	2	0	0
Funerals	0	0	0

# **DOW – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT**

*for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly*

## **St. John the Forerunner Orthodox Chapel, Camp Pendleton CA**

The Orthodox Chapel on Camp Pendleton existed in one form or another before many of the parishes in the great San Diego area were established. Before security concerns limited base access, it operated almost as a parish in North County.

Although the Chapel was administered by priests and area clergy of different jurisdictions, the majority of Chaplains had been of the Orthodox Church in America or its antecedent, the Metropolia. The laity who participated in its worship were similarly of many jurisdictions. This diversity, yet worshipping in English, helped cradle Orthodox to understand their faith, and attracted inquirers and converts.

The instability of military life, with members deploying, transferring, or terminating service, has been the most significant detractor in efforts to establish robust programs such as catechumen instruction and religious education. Even so, a semblance of those essentials have always been offered even if informally, as in a one-room school house.

Inflexible work-day schedules often interfere with attendance on Feasts. Operations are interrupted or postponed to accommodate other Christians on Easter, but then recommence causing Orthodox to miss the Feast of Feasts. Therefore, the full range of Lenten, Holy Week, Bright Week, pre- and post-feast services, as well as Synaxis services are offered in order to increase opportunities for active duty members to attend.

In addition to regular services on Camp Pendleton, they have been offered on request in other areas of the base for student personnel and Recruits. The relaxation of COVID restrictions provided an opportunity for Orthodox coverage also on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Each Sunday, Resurrectional Matins are provided for as many as 40 Recruits, the vast majority of whom are not Orthodox. Marine Boot Camp lasts 11 weeks and for each of those weeks there is a new crop of Recruits, and with returnees from the previous week. The result is more than a thousand non-Orthodox are exposed to Orthodox worship every year (those statistics are not reflected in the report). The Divine Liturgy was also celebrated once per quarter on a Saturday on the Marine Base at Twenty-nine Palms, California. Furthermore, visits are made to Orthodox patients at Naval National Medical Center (Balboa).

The armed forces has members who are of the age often absent in parishes, the same age as college student who have OCF. Orthodox Chaplaincy is both missionary and youth ministry, making the Orthodox Christian faith known to military leaders and others who never heard of us before, and attracting new members. Orthodox Chapels were never intended to become parish churches, though in appearance they may not be very different. The goal is for our men and women in uniform to stay Orthodox, so they may return to parish life with their faith intact, once their enlistment or career has ended.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Synaxis of the Theotokos Corporation St Peter the Aleut Corporation

The Diocese manages two separate non-diocesan corporations. They consist of assets that belonged to two closed diocesan parishes. They have property that must be managed and used for religious purposes. They have their own boards of directors under the purview of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin.

The property associated with the Synaxis of the Theotokos is in San Francisco, CA. The two-story house is currently occupied by the rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Diocesan Administration office. As this corporation has no income and is wholly supported by the Diocese, we closed the checking and savings accounts that were in the name of the corporation and all expenses are now reported in the general diocesan financial statements.

The property associated with St Peter the Aleut is in Lake Havasu, Arizona. The property is currently being rented to a Protestant organization for worship. The financial statements for this corporation are attached below.



Diocese of the West, OCA  
St. Peter Fund Balance Sheet  
as of 09/30/2023

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>St. Peter the Aleut Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
20100	St. Peter Checking Account	\$25,477.03
20150	St. Peter Savings Account	\$80,804.89
<b>Total St. Peter the Aleut Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>\$106,281.92</b>
<b>St. Peter Long Term Assets</b>		
20200	Holy Ascension Loan	\$25,875.00
<b>Total St. Peter Long Term Assets</b>		<b>\$25,875.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$132,156.92</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>Fund Balance</b>		
3007	St. Peter the Aleut Fund Balance	\$132,156.92
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>\$132,156.92</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$132,156.92</b>
<b>Total Liabilities + Total Equity</b>		<b>\$132,156.92</b>



Diocese of the West, OCA  
 St. Peter Fund P&L  
 for the period of 01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023

Account Number	Account Name	St. Peter the Aleut
<b>Income</b>		
<b>St. Peter Income</b>		
41110	Savings Interest	\$90.60
41120	Rent Income	\$10,800.00
<b>Total St. Peter Income</b>		<b>\$10,890.60</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$10,890.60</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>St. Peter Expenses</b>		
61120	Property & Liability Insurance	\$2,243.00
61150	Annual Subscription & Fees	\$10.00
<b>Total St. Peter Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,253.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$2,253.00</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>\$8,637.60</b>
<b>Summary</b>		
Beginning Fund Balance		\$123,519.32
+ Other Fund Balance Movements		\$0.00
+ Net Income / (Loss)		\$8,637.60
= Ending Fund Balance		\$132,156.92

## DIOCESAN PARISH GROWTH OVER FIVE YEARS

Compiled and Revised 29 September 2023  
Theodora Blom

2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 membership numbers were taken from the 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 Delegate Report Books respectively. 2023 membership numbers were taken from the 2023 Assembly Parish Reports. Number used are taken from the “Adult Parishioners” row.

### DIOCESE OF THE WEST

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Diocesan Membership</b>	<b>4195</b>	<b>4195</b>	<b>4134</b>	<b>4107</b>	<b>4693</b>

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Billings, MT	50	67	110	102	97
Bozeman, MT	172	162	111	122	129
Calhan, CO	112	111	115	115	120
Colorado Springs, CO	145	145	130	147	175
Delta, CO	55	61	80	78	79
Denver, CO	56	56	63	64	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>665</b>

### DESERT DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Las Vegas, NV	179	189	193	180	182
Phoenix, AZ	180	180	150		79
Poway, CA	100	95		121	124
San Diego, CA	27	24	20	22	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>410</b>

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Corvallis, OR	146	155	156	158	144
Kirkland, WA	120	145	80	87	99
Port Townsend, WA	81	127	137		112
Portland, OR	90	90	95	131	137
Poulsbo, WA	83	95	112	110	95
Seattle, WA	92	89	70	76	64
Tacoma, WA	145	100	130	133	140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>791</b>

## MISSION DISTRICT DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aberdeen, WA					11
Ashland, OR	108	110	78	75	87
Astoria, OR	16	17	27	32	46
Atwater, CA	21	30	30	30	34
Bend, OR	29	41	55	80	79
Carlsbad, CA	69	80	66	78	85
Chico, CA	71	73	81		
Grand Junction, CO	NR	NR	31	30	51
Great Falls, MT	27	17			25
Helena, MT	34	34	11	14	20
Hesperia, CA	36	56		29	35
Hilo, HI	14	14	14	14	14
Kona, HI	23	20	22	24	30
Littleton, CO	60	70	40	33	73
Marina Del Rey, CA	150	125	100	110	120
Marysville, CA	25	23	18	24	26
Milwaukie, OR	270	236	275	289	295
Newport, OR	16	12	14	16	14
Oxnard, CA	34	34	21	22	23
Parker, CO	16	16	26	30	29
Pueblo, CO	28	29	34	36	40
Sonora, CA	32	31	27	33	51
Spokane, WA	15	25	35	29	40
Tempe, AZ	76	77	64	68	63
Vancouver, WA	45	57	55	54	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1348</b>

## PACIFIC CENTRAL DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Berkeley, CA	36	36	40	57	58
Concord, CA	46	61	56	62	74
Eureka, CA	38	40	40	42	45
Fremont, CA	68	57	61	62	76
Menlo Park, CA	100	102	106	110	138
Pleasanton, CA	67	67	67	63	70
Sacramento, CA	129	124	119	127	124
San Anselmo, CA	82	80	80	75	80
San Francisco, CA (CSC)	67	79	79	79	86
San Francisco, CA (HTC)	110	110	100	101	98
Santa Rosa, CA	136	142	142	175	150
Saratoga, CA	20	20	35		73
West Sacramento, CA	70	70	63	63	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>1137</b>

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DEANERY

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Los Angeles, CA	98	98	124	132	176
Oxnard, CA	34	34	21	22	23
Santa Barbara, CA	10	19	8	12	14
Santa Maria, CA	50	56	56	68	68
Tarzana, CA	63	63	61	61	61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>342</b>

## 2022 Parishioner Support of Parish Operations

Parish Financial Life - Based on Parish Eligible Income derived from Percentage Assessment Computation

Per Capita Support - financial support of parish operations by an individual parishioner

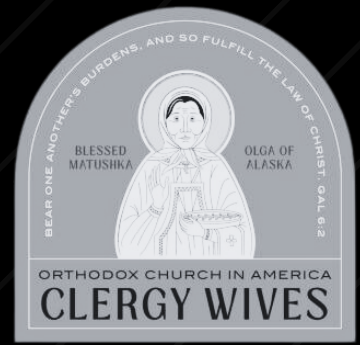
City/State	Parish	Membership Reported 2022	2022 Eligible Income	Per Capita Support 2022
Billings, MT	St. Nicholas of South Canaan Church	102	\$154,876.00	\$1,518
Bozeman, MT	St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church	122	\$176,592.00	\$1,447
Calhan, CO	St. Mary Holy Dormition Church	115	\$125,582.00	\$1,092
Colorado Springs, CO	SS Constantine and Helen Church	147	\$371,636.00	\$2,528
Delta, CO	St. Andrew the Apostle Church	78	\$102,900.00	\$1,319
Denver, CO	Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral	64	\$137,624.00	\$2,150
	<b>Rocky Mountain Deanery</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>\$1,069,210.00</b>	<b>\$10,056</b>
Berkeley, CA	St. John the Baptist Church	57	\$155,395.00	\$2,726
Concord, CA	St. Michael the Archangel Church	62	\$61,232.00	\$988
Eureka, CA	St. Innocent Orthodox Church	42	\$10,256.00	\$244
Fremont, CA	St. Christina of Tyre Orthodox Church	62	\$202,229.00	\$3,262
Menlo Park, CA	Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church	110	\$187,250.00	\$1,702
Pleasanton, CA	St. Innocent Orthodox Church	63	\$129,911.00	\$2,062
Sacramento, CA	Elevation of the Holy Cross Church	127	\$213,719.00	\$1,683
San Anselmo, CA	St. Nicholas Orthodox Church	75	\$120,650.00	\$1,609
San Francisco, CA	Christ the Savior Orthodox Church	79	\$155,595.00	\$1,970
San Francisco, CA	Holy Trinity Cathedral	101	\$281,471.00	\$2,787
Santa Rosa, CA	Protection of the Holy Virgin/St Seraphim of Sarov	175	\$327,400.00	\$1,871
Saratoga, CA	St. Nicholas Orthodox Church	50	\$102,573.00	\$2,051
West Sacramento, CA	Holy Myrhhbearing Women Church	63	\$103,000.00	\$1,635
	<b>Pacific Central Deanery</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>\$2,050,681.00</b>	<b>\$24,589</b>
Corvallis, OR	St. Anne Orthodox Church	158	\$250,944.00	\$1,588
Kirkland, WA	St. Katherine Orthodox Mission	87	\$311,694.00	\$3,583
Port Townsend, WA	St Herman of Alaska Church	127	\$156,738.00	\$1,234
Portland, OR	St. Nicholas Orthodox Church	131	\$170,781.00	\$1,304
Poulsbo, WA	New Martyr Elizabeth Mission	110	\$263,318.00	\$2,394
Seattle, WA	St. Spiridon Cathedral	76	\$213,678.00	\$2,812
Tacoma, WA	Holy Trinity-Holy Resurrection Church	133	\$280,872.00	\$2,112
	<b>Pacific Northwest Deanery</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>\$1,648,025.00</b>	<b>\$15,026</b>

Los Angeles, CA	Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral	132	\$360,000.00	\$2,727
Oxnard, CA	St. Herman Orthodox Church	34	\$63,007.00	\$1,853
Santa Barbara, CA	St. Vladimir Orthodox Church	12	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Maria, CA	Orthodox Church of the Annunciation	68	\$168,605.00	\$2,479
Tarzana, CA	St. Innocent Orthodox Church	61	\$121,225.00	\$1,987
	<b>Pacific Southwest Deanery</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$712,837.00</b>	<b>\$9,047</b>
Aberdeen, WA	St. Sophia Mission			\$0.00
Ashland, OR	Archangel Gabriel Mission	75	\$145,330.00	\$1,938
Astoria, OR	St. Brendan the Navigator	32	\$59,394.00	\$1,856
Atwater, CA	St. Mary Magdalen Mission	30	\$70,849.00	\$2,362
Bend, OR	St Jacob of Alaska Mission	80	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carlsbad, CA	St Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Mission	78	\$197,920.00	\$2,537
Chico, CA	SS Cyril and Methodius Mission	73	\$119,730.00	\$1,640
Grand Junction, CO	Holy Wisdom Mission	30	\$0.00	
Great Falls, MT	St. Mark the Evangelist	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Helena, MT	St. Moses the Strong Mission	14	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hesperia, CA	St. George the Great Martyr Church	29	\$81,041.00	\$2,795
Hilo, HI	Holy Ascension Chapel	14	\$25,450.00	\$1,818
Kona, HI	St. Juvenaly Orthodox Mission	24	\$72,550.00	\$3,023
Littleton, CO	St. Herman of Alaska Church	33	\$91,000.00	\$2,758
Marina Del Rey, CA	Joy of All Who Sorrow Mission	110	\$127,060.00	\$1,155
Marysville, CA	St. Silouan the Athonite	24	\$0.00	\$0.00
Milwaukie, OR	Church of the Annunciation	289	\$272,150.00	\$942
Newport, OR	St. Patrick Orthodox Mission	16	\$0.00	\$0.00
Parker, CO	St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America, Mission	30	\$94,140.00	\$3,138
Pueblo, CO	St. Michael Orthodox Church	36	\$61,232.00	\$1,701
Sonora, CA	St. Susanna Orthodox Mission	33	\$50,680.00	\$1,536
Spokane, WA	St. Luke the Evangelist	29	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tempe, AZ	St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Mission	68	\$154,139.00	\$2,267
Vancouver, WA	Holy Apostles Mission	54	\$96,237.00	\$1,782
	<b>Mission Deanery</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>\$1,718,902.00</b>	<b>\$33,246</b>
Las Vegas, NV	St. Paul the Apostle Church	180	\$221,454.00	\$1,230
Phoenix, AZ	SS Peter and Paul Church	150	\$200,110.00	\$1,334
Poway, CA	St. John of Damascus Church	121	\$263,318.00	\$2,176
San Diego, CA	St. Nicholas Church	22	\$42,536.00	\$1,933
	<b>Desert Deanery</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>\$727,418.00</b>	<b>\$6,674</b>
	<b>Diocesan Total</b>	<b>4514</b>	<b>\$7,927,073.00</b>	<b>\$1,756</b>

# Diocesan Point Person to the Clergy Wives Advisory Group

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST 2022/23

Submitted by Protinica Elizabeth Powell



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

It has been a blessing over the last year to continue working with the Clergy Wives Advisory Group under the auspices of the Office of Pastoral Life. We continue to offer quarterly online retreats and newsletters for clergy wives, reaching approximately 500 across the OCA with firm hope that more will sign on to receive these resources. It is a joy to be our Diocesan Point Person for this group, offering a connection to its resources and facilitating diocesan events for our clergy wives.

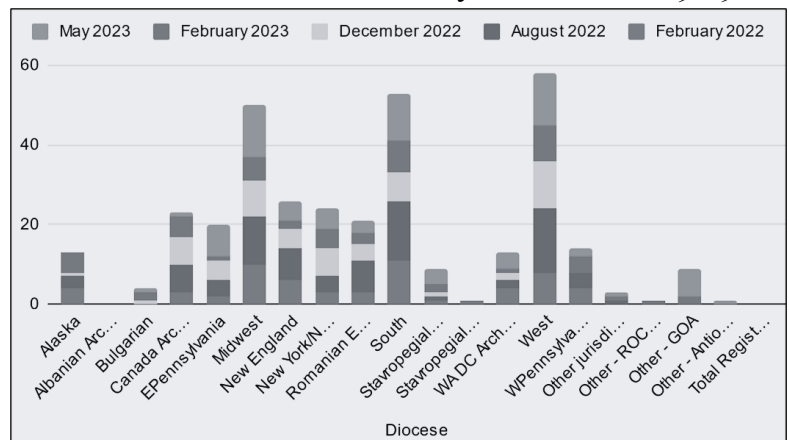
## NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- First Spanish newsletter for clergy wives
- Retreats for clergy wife widows
- OCA-wide clergy wives prayer list
- Point Person for every diocese promoting clergy wife events & offering support
- Over 500 clergy wives in directory

## DIOCESAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Luncheon at Diocesan Assembly
- Retreat at Monastery of St. John in Manton, CA
- Thriving in Ministry clergy wife groups
- Highest participation in clergy wife events in the OCA

Zoom Retreat Attendance by Diocese 2/22-3/23



Statistics and graph courtesy of Mka. Wendy Cwiklinski, DOW, CWAG member

## LOOKING AHEAD

- November 2023 DOW retreat at the Monastery of St. John in Manton, CA
- Continued retreats/newsletters
- OCA-wide clergy wives gathering