

2020 Review Con't

Although it is easy for all of the attention to be spent on the trials that this past year brought, one could also define 2020 as a year of innovation and reflection. Many communities started to stream their services online. Classes, retreats, and other gatherings were now held digitally, in some ways bringing greater participation to these events than before. On a diocesan level, the diocesan center was moved from Chicago, IL to Burbank, IL, a new website was launched and the annual Diocesan Assembly was held online with a strong number of participants continuing the important work of the Church. Despite not being able to hold large gatherings for the 50th anniversary of the OCA's Autocephaly, monthly reflections were released, and prayers were offered in commemoration of this event. Two deaneries were able to hold celebrations, while the other deaneries have postponed this commemoration until 2021.

Another bright spot in 2020 was the elevation of our diocesan hierarch to Archbishop by the Holy Synod. This was without a doubt bestowed on His Eminence because of his tireless work and efforts for the diocese. This is exemplified in his visits to his communities which started up halfway through the year after canceling several months of visits. During those visits he was able to bring hope to the faithful by leading them in prayer and offering words of inspiration. His Eminence was able to ordain several new clerics for the diocese and bestow awards to the hard-working clergy of these communities.

Difficult times also provide for a greater need for charitable work, and the Mother Maria of Paris Charitable Ministry was up for the task. Despite the many hardships people have suffered, this charitable ministry was able to donate over \$25,000 to ministries in the diocese that forged on during unusual times. These donations were funded by the diocese, parishes, and generous individuals who wanted to make a difference. Families were comforted with weekly reflections offered by Archbishop Paul on the Family Ministry website, and youth gatherings got to meet with their Archbishop on several occasions.

2020 brought some new changes in the life of the diocese. Long time Chancellor, Archpriest John Zdinak, retired from parish life and the Chancellor of the diocese after 17 years of service in this office.

Beginning in February of 2021, His Eminence has appointed Archpriest Paul Jannakos as the new Chancellor. In 2021, the diocese will also see an effort to rebuild monastic life within her territory. A new woman's monastery will be revived under the leadership of Mother Alexandra in Marshfield, MO. This is a particularly exciting initiative that will take the support of the entire diocese.

Another year is now coming to a close. Many thoughts and opinions of this year will echo throughout history, but despite the many obstacles that our communities faced, and will continue to face, we forge on with the Great Commission our Lord gave to us. In times of difficulty we are consoled by the prayers of the Church and for one another. This love for one another has not stopped, and will not stop, as proven by 2020.

In Memoriam: The 20th Anniversary of the Repose of Bishop Boris

December 30, 2020 marks the 20th Anniversary of the repose of His Grace, Bishop Boris of Chicago and the Midwest. Bishop Boris served the Diocesan Hierarch of the Midwest Diocese from November of 1978 until his retirement in November of 1988.

Born on November 18, 1923 in Portage, PA, the son of the late Archpriest Theodore and Mary [Youshak] Geeza, he was a 1945 graduate of Columbia University, New York, NY. The following year he graduated from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and was married to Helen Korba.

Following his graduation and marriage, he served as choir director and teacher at Three Saints Church, Garfield, NJ until his ordination to the priesthood by His Eminence, Metropolitan Theophilus [Pashkovsky] in 1947. After serving as pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, Weirton, WV, he was commissioned as an Orthodox chaplain in the US Navy in March 1953. In recognition of his long and distinguished service in the chaplaincy, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam, he was named as the first Dean of Orthodox Chaplains in 1970 and was awarded the Chaplain's cross for meritorious service the following year.

Following the repose of his wife in 1971, he continued his ministry until his **Con't Next Page**

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retirement from the chaplaincy in 1975. Having pursued post-graduate studies at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, he was appointed Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA and Chancellor of the Diocese of the West.

In July 1978, he was named Bishop-elect of Manhattan, a new post created by the Holy Synod of Bishops to assist His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius. On September 16 of the same year he was tonsured into monastic orders by Metropolitan Theodosius at Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY and elevated to the rank of archimandrite.

Upon the retirement of His Eminence, Archbishop John [Garklavs] of Chicago in September 1978, the 18th Assembly of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest, meeting in Madison, IL on October 1, 1978, unanimously nominated Archimandrite Boris to fill the vacant episcopal see. Members of the Holy Synod of Bishops, meeting in New York on October 17-18, 1978, formally elected him to succeed Archbishop John.

On November 11, 1978, he was consecrated to the episcopacy by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius; Archbishop John of Chicago; His Grace, Bishop [later Archbishop] Kyrill of Pittsburgh; His Grace, Bishop Firmilian of the Serbian Orthodox Church; and His Grace, Bishop Ireney, Vicar of the Moscow Patriarchate at Chicago's historic [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#). During his tenure as Bishop of Chicago, Bishop Boris organized diocesan departments, initiated publication of a diocesan newspaper, *The Vigil*, and promulgated uniform parish bylaws. He also oversaw the establishment of several new missions and parishes throughout the Midwest Diocese, the OCA's largest.

In November 1988, Bishop Boris retired from active ministry, but remained active in various aspects of Church life.

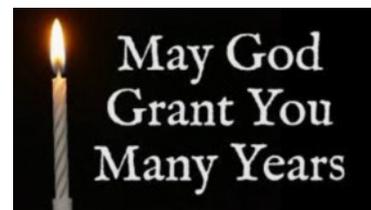
May Bishop Boris' memory be eternal!

Episcopal Anniversary of Archbishop Paul – Many Years!

The 27th of December, the feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr, marks the anniversary of Archbishop Paul's consecration to the holy episcopate. It was six years ago today, that His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, along with other hierarchs, clergy and faithful from all over the diocese gathered at [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#) for this joyous event in the life of the diocese.

Since that time, Archbishop Paul has worked tirelessly to serve the Diocese of the Midwest by traveling the eleven states in his territory, starting new ministries to unite the diocese, and giving special attention to fostering vocation. The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America also elevated him to rank of Archbishop in [May of 2020](#).

On behalf of Archpriest John Zdniak, the diocesan staff, clergy and faithful of the Midwest; Axios and congratulations to our Archpastor. Many years.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Holy Assumption Church will be held Sunday, January, 24 immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

This year due to Covid-19 we will be holding the meeting in the church. You must make a reservation to attend.

We have 24 members in good standing. A quorum is 13.

This year we will be holding a vote on amending the By-law on council members.

Only members in good standing can voice their opinion and vote. Please plan to attend this very special meeting.