REPORT OF THE DEAN OF THE SOUTHWEST DEANERY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND **WESTERN PENSYLVANIA – November 2, 2019**

**Officers:**

Rev. Andrew Nelko: Dean

Deacon David Rostcheck: Treasurer

The parishes of the ***Southwest Deanery*** include:

Belle Vernon, PA, Holy Resurrection Rev. Stephan Gresh, Rector

Canonsburg, PA, St. John the Baptist Rev. John Kotalik

Protodeacon John Oleynik

Deacon Theodosius Onest

Charleroi, PA, Holy Trinity V. Rev. Gregory Peterson, Rector

Donora, PA, St. Nicholas Rev. John Parker

Deacon Robert Motichak

Jeannette, PA, Ss. Cyril & Methodius VACANT

Masontown, PA, Nativity of the Virgin VACANT

Mingo Junction, OH, St. Andrew V. Rev. John Kopcha, Rector

Monessen, PA, St. John the Divine VACANT

Hieromonk Constantine (Curchin),

Temporary Administrator

Monongahela, PA, Nativity of the Virgin V. Rev. George Yatsko, Rector (On medical leave of absence)

Deacon David Rostcheck

Moundsville, WV, Ss. Peter & Paul VACANT

New Salem, PA, Holy Trinity V. Rev. Vitaly Dudkin, Rector

Steubenville, OH, Holy Transfiguration VACANT

West Brownsville, PA, Holy Resurrection VACANT

Weirton, WV, St. Nicholas Rev. Andrew Nelko (Dean)

Wolf Run, OH, All Saints VACANT

We currently have **six** parishes that are vacant, **one** that is temporarily vacant with Fr. George Yatsko on a medical leave of absence, and **another** that is currently being serviced by Hieromonk, Constantine Curchin. A major task of the dean has been to schedule services on Sundays for these vacant parishes. A big thank you to those who help fill in and serve these parishes; V. Rev. Paul Suda, V. Rev. Theodore Shomsky, V. Rev. David Vernak, and V. Rev. Michael Zahirsky V. Rev. Bob Prepelka from the Carpatho Diocese, Fr. Michael Sochka, and our Deacons: Motichak, Onest, Rostcheck, Stahoviak, and Truckley.

Within the deanery, there were two retirements in the past year. Fr. Larry Daniels retired from serving Jeanette and Fr. Joe Oleynik retired from Canonsburg in June.

Along with these retirements, we have been blessed with having two ordinations to the priesthood to fill a couple of the vacant parishes. Fr. John Parker was ordained on June 22nd in Donora and is currently the acting rector there. Fr. John Kotalik was ordained on August 24th in Canonsburg and is currently the acting rector there. Fr. Michael Sochka who was also recently ordained on August 17th is serving as a supply priest for the deanery as well.

St. Nicholas in Weirton celebrated their Centennial Celebration on October 13th. The day was highlighted by the Hierarchal Liturgy served by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, joined by our Archbishop Melchisedek.

In January a second annual blessing of the Ohio River was held in Steubenville, Ohio. Participating in the service were clergy from the various jurisdictions; the OCA, Serbian, Greek, and Carpatho-Russian. Each year this has received a larger turnout which is a blessing.

The deanery clergy have been making efforts to attend deanery meetings and services together more often. There have been three deanery meetings this year with the effort of finding more ways to bring the deanery together that, at times, appears fragmented. The goal to have deanery meetings at least quarterly, beginning with a Liturgy at the hosting parish. During Lent, the deanery held three mission services. A deanery Presanctified Liturgy was served in St. Nicholas in Weirton, Sunday Mission Service in St. John’s in Canonsburg, and a deanery Unction Service in Holy Resurrection, Belle Vernon.

The deanery’s plans for the coming year include parishes hosting the deanery for their Patronal Feast, or any Feast of their choosing. Plans for clergy retreats and deanery laity retreats are also being worked on for the coming year. The deanery is excited for the coming year with many new ideas and plans along with new faces.

Over the past year, the dean has worked with several of the vacant parishes in attaining a new priest. He has also traveled to many parishes to visit sick or have funerals for departed faithful. A big thank you to the other deanery clergy who also assist in serving the needs of the parishes.

Respectfully, submitted,



Rev. Andrew P. Nelko

Dean of the Southwest Deanery