

Chancellor's Report
Diocesan Council Meeting
February 8, 2005

Much has happened in my own life and in the life of our diocese since the Diocesan Assembly and the last meeting of this Diocesan Council. I think the best manner to report on my activities is chronologically.

At the conclusion of our Assembly, Archpriest Matthew Tate and I met with the struggling community of Hesperia for a second time. With the blessing of Bishop Tikhon, the parish council of St. George was dismissed. Previous agreements between their council and the diocesan authorities with regard to finances and payments to the diocesan treasury were not kept. A layman was appointed to help Deacon Alexander Stavrinides, who has kindly taken the parish under his care, administer the parish. To my knowledge payments of one sort or another are being made. But, the future of the mission is in doubt due in large part to a reluctance of the faithful there to financially support their church. As they have been a continual drain on the resources of the diocese and few options remain, I have asked Archpriest Matthew Tate to make one final visit there in an attempt to keep the parish open.

I attended the fall session of the Holy Synod with Bishop Tikhon at which the 40th anniversary of His Beatitude was celebrated. Among other issues, the up-coming All-American Council was discussed.

I returned home to the Matushka retreat which was already in session. I would like to see more of the clergy wives attend this. I am not sure why some have elected not to attend, but it can be a very useful tool in overcoming a sense of isolation.

In November we received the sad news Archimandrite Ambrosius (Pogodin), long-time pastor of the Nativity of the Theotokos Parish in Menlo Park, CA, fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral services were conducted by the local clergy.

In December, after a hospitalization, I resumed my duties as chancellor and my schedule of parish visitations. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Archpriest Ian Mackinnon who filled in as chancellor in my absence. I

have tried to be of some help to the struggling community in Hesperia while maintaining my scheduled parish visitations, but, with Archpriest Victor's diagnosed cancer, I have had to move many of my activities to SFO and Raphael House. Parenthetically, let me say how grateful I am to Fr. David and the people at Raphael House for providing me with a place to stay when I am in SFO. With the division of HTC and Christ the Savior into two different parishes, we seem to have lost a valuable diocesan resource: an office and residence. I believe it is time to at the very least begin thinking about a resolution to this problem. And, I would like to spend some time at the end of this meeting exploring some ideas and thoughts you all might have in this regard.

In addition to my visits to SFO and the Bay Area, I completed a tour of our mission parishes in Montana. I returned home with memories, a camera and a very bad cold/flu or whatever. I also visited the Fremont (St. Innocent) parish. I have a few parishes left to visit before accomplishing my goal of visiting every parish and institution of the diocese.