

**Diocese of the South
Plenary Session
July 22, 2010 - Atlanta, GA**

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 10:11 a.m.

The credentials committee of Mother Thecla and Fr. John Parker reported 43 lay delegates and 48 clergy delegates for a total of 91 delegates.

Fr. Joseph welcomed the attendees and introduced our special guest, Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor of the OCA.

Minutes for the 2009 Plenary session were posted on the assembly website. A motion to forego reading of the minutes and approve them as posted was made by Fr. Peter Smith and seconded by Fr. Ernesto Rios. All approved.

Metropolitan's Report: His Beatitude spoke about his connection to the Diocese of the South. In the past year, he has visited over 25 parishes and all the monasteries in the diocese and he continues to function as our bishop as much as he is able. The Diocese is largely governed by the deans, the chancellor and treasurer and the commended them for their service and dedication. Unfortunately, there was some need for disciplinary action in the DOS and his Beatitude is satisfied with how things have progressed.

He is encouraged by our mission, vision, outreach, monasteries and financial strength and wants to replicate it in the OCA as a whole. The South is setting the pace for stewardship and Metropolitan Jonah stressed that the tithe is how the church is to be supported.

Search for a new bishop: Metropolitan Jonah does not believe the right person to become the new bishop of the diocese has yet emerged. He will continue as our Locum Tenens for the foreseeable future.

Episcopal Assembly: Metropolitan Jonah summarized the work of the Episcopal Assembly, the anomalies of our Autocephaly and his work with the other primates. He feels the Episcopal Assembly offers outstanding opportunities and we bring to this assembly our vision of a local, missionary church. He emphasized the mutually interdependent relationship of the church and the move towards a Great Council in as early as 2013. The OCA strategic plan by design fits into the work of the Episcopal Assembly and Chambessy. There were several questions regarding our autocephaly raised by delegates that were addressed by his Beatitude and summarized as working with the greatest theologians of our time while honoring the legacy of St. Innocent, St. Herman, St. Tikhon and the other American saints.

Metropolitan Jonah also set forth several upcoming events including a Pastoral Meeting for all Priests and Deacons; a Missions and Evangelism conference with the Diocese of the West; and the All American Council with pilgrimage to Sitka where he hopes to consecrate the new bishop of Alaska.

Lawsuits: All lawsuits are resolved and there is no pending legal action of any consequence

Chancellor's Report: Fr. Joseph spoke of our great missionary territory and how the assembly reflected a true cross section of our diocese. He thanks the local committee, the clergy and staff of the Greek Cathedral of the Annunciation, the Chancery staff, as well as Hieromonk Irenaeus and the workshop presenters. He emphasized his role as coordinating efforts and fostering communication within the DOS. Fr. Joseph updated the assembly on diocesan clergy changes:

New Priests/New Assignments:

Fr. Peter Robichau – St. Basil the Great, Wilmington NC
Fr. Daniel Tally – St. Tikhon Mission, Chattanooga, TN
Fr. Benjamin Henderson – El Paso Mission Station
Fr. Samuel Gantt – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, The Woodlands, TX
Fr. Thaddeus Warner – St. John of the Ladder, Piedmont, SC

Fr. Theophan Buck – St. Innocent, Macon, GA
Fr. Nicholas Miletkov– moving to All Saints of North America, Albuquerque, NM

Retiring Clergy:

Fr. Jonas Worsham
Fr. George Sondergaard
Fr. John Hennies

Reposed:

Fr. George Breyan
Protodeacon Nicholas Fedak

Additional changes include Fr. Peter Smith stepping down as Dean of the Atlanta Deanery as he prepares for his upcoming sabbatical and the appointment of Fr. Alexander Fecanin as the new Dean of the Atlanta Deanery.

Fr. Joseph spoke of future plans of possibly splitting into sister diocese and adding an assistant to the chancery staff.

Financially, the DOS continues to be the standard for the OCA and recently hosted meetings with Melania Ringa, OCA Treasurer, OCA staff and the treasurer from the Diocese of the West on our financial organization and tithing.

There is no plan at present to publish a hard copy version of The Dawn. Communications will continue through the DOSOCA website.

Fr. Joseph encouraged a strong diocesan presence at the 2011 All American Council in Seattle.

Treasurer's Report: Milos Konjevich reported that last year we eliminated the parish assessment with some trepidation but that through tithing, we did not "break stride." We were able to cover our assessment to the OCA, cover our expenses and still have funds available to help build missions and do other work in the DOS. We are a financially viable diocese.

The 2011 Proposed Budget: A motion was made by Donna Ryan and seconded by Gary Popovich to approve the proposed budget as recommended by the Diocesan Council. The motion passed by acclamation.

Metropolitan Council: It was recommended and approved by acclamation that Judge Ray Lanier and Fr. Gleb McFatter continue their work as members of the Metropolitan Council.

Diocesan Council Deanery Caucus: The deaneries caucused to elect their lay representatives as presented below:

Deanery	Clergy Representative	Lay Representative
Appalachian	Fr. Stephen Freeman	Bert Walther Alternate: Michael Romanchuk
Atlanta	Fr. Alexander Fecanin	Anya Gill
Carolinas	Fr. Marcus Burch	Carl Holliman Alternate: Bill Walter
Dallas	Fr. Seraphim Hipsch	Scott Placek Alternate: Mat. Elizabeth Perdomo
Miami	Fr. Gleb McFatter	Donna Ryan
Orlando	Fr. Ted Pisarchuk	Milo Chelovitz

Deanery and Monastic Reports: Following the lunch break, the reports were presented as posted previously on the assembly website. A video of the Monastery of the Nativity in Kemp, TX was also presented.

Metropolitan Jonah also encouraged us to work quickly to raise the remaining \$200K needed to build the first phase of the Monastery of Sts. Mary and Martha in Wagener, SC.

Upcoming Assemblies: All were in favor of holding the 2011 DOS Assembly in conjunction with the All American Council in Seattle in October/November 2011. The 2012 DOS Assembly will be held in Miami, FL.

Metropolitan Jonah's Closing Remarks: His Beatitude implored us to keep Jesus Christ foremost in our lives and not to get caught up in institutional issues. We must decrease so He can increase. When people come to the church they need to see and experience Christ and the saints. We are not to get discouraged but always keep our eyes fixed on Christ and the gospel and live a life immersed in scriptures and service to the church. He admonished us to pray the scriptures and make a catechesis in studying them, knowing them and manifesting them in our lives. He asked us to ask not how a chapter of scripture makes us feel nor what we think about it but rather how it challenges our life. He called on us to each be a prophetic witness.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:42 p.m.