

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

St. Anne Oak Ridge/Knoxville, TN - 2007

St. Anne, Oak Ridge, has had a very full year of ministry since our last Diocesan Assembly. We saw our beloved second priest, Fr. Justin Patterson and his family leave this past December to take up work in Nicholasville, KY. At the same time Fr. Deacon Kevin Rigdon was ordained by Archbishop Dmitri and assigned to St. Anne. He has been a great help in our ministry. This past June, Fr. Justin Mathews and family came on board to begin a new ministry with us. This summer we are enjoying the work of Seminarian Kyrill Williams, from St. Tikhon's seminary, who has been assigned to St. Anne as part of the Summer Intern Program. Fr. Stephen is serving as his mentor.

We have continued work with a growing congregation which has become well represented across age ranges. This September we will begin a full Sunday School for all ages.

In this past year we added 9 members to the Church by Baptism and another 18 by Chrismation. We also continue to add families who have moved into our area. We continue to study and pray about the timing of work towards a permanent temple on the vacant lot (next to our present location) which we now own. Sunday attendance averages between 80 and 100.

We are also beginning to look at the logistics and needs for a second OCA Church in the greater Knoxville area.

As Dean, Fr. Stephen will be meeting later this summer with Fr. Peter Dubinin (Army Chaplain) and a group who will be working to establish an OCA mission in Clarksville, TN. All things seem set for a good beginning there.

We also are enjoying greater and greater brotherly cooperation with other Orthodox across the state. We hope to be forming a Pan Orthodox Brotherhood for periodic meetings in Tennessee.

In this next year, I hope to see Deanery level workshops in a number of needed areas. Our deanery serves a very large geographic area, with churches from Memphis to Norfolk. Pray for growth across our deanery.

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

Norfolk, Church of the Dormition, Fr. Theodore Panchak

DORMITION ORTHODOX CHURCH, NORFOLK, VA

It has been a spiritually enriching year, welcoming many new members and (unfortunately!) saying good-bye to others who have moved away in this highly transient area. The youth and adult education programs have been the highlights of the year, and the choir program has improved tremendously, thanks to the good work of Tanya Nelko and Dave Drillock. The Icon Project, co-ordinated by Fr. Paul Pynch, our retired Navy chaplain, has produced almost 200 icons for the adornment of the church. The library/conference room was painted and new bookshelves erected, which also provided storage space for choir music.

Fr. Mark Koczak retired from active duty after 20 years of service in the Navy as a chaplain. He has been a most active and involved member of the parish and we wish him "many years." Another Navy chaplain, Fr. Andrew Nelko and his family continue to be active members of the parish. As always, we're always glad to welcome the many visitors and vacationers to Virginia Beach, Williamsburg/Yorktown, and the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

ST. ATHANASIUS 2007 PARISH REPORT

Overview:

This past year has—without doubt—been one of the most exciting and challenging in our mission’s five-year history as an OCA community. Among the many things that have transpired in the past year, several may be considered authentic milestones in our mission’s history.

First, with the blessing of His Eminence and the enthusiastic support of our dean, St. Athanasius acquired additional hilltop land, giving us a unified parcel of land now totaling 17 ½ acres. This land not only crowns a classic “bluegrass hill” and can be seen for miles around, but it also came to us at a price well below market value. Along with the obvious opportunities that come with having this land comes the financial and spiritual stretching of conducting a campaign to raise the money to pay for the land.

Second, the parish made its first pastoral transition—from its founding pastor, Fr. David Rucker, to its current pastor, Fr. Justin Patterson (me). Last December, His Eminence—along with our dean, Fr. Stephen Freeman—made an archpastoral visit to St. Athanasius that coincided with the transition, lending visible blessing to the pastoral change that took place and embedding that change in the life of the Church. Naturally, these kinds of transitions present both challenges and opportunities, some of which we will speak more of later in this report.

Third, our mission celebrated its fifth anniversary (on the Meeting of the Lord) as a canonical community of the Orthodox Church in America. In the meantime, our mission has continued to grow (numerically, financially, and spiritually, glory to God!) All of this confirms the blessing of the Lord upon our work here.

Finally, we had the joy of celebrating our first Patronal Feast on our new land. With the blessing of His Eminence, we kept the Feast of St. Athanasius (May 2nd) by erecting a large tent and serving Great Vespers with Litya on the evening of May 1st, followed by a sunrise Liturgy at 7AM the next morning! This event, indeed, constitutes a major milestone for us as we look to the future.

Metrical data:

In the last 12 months, our mission has baptized two adults and one child. We have received nine souls into the Church by Holy Chrismation and Confession. At present, we have among us many expecting mothers and look forward to more baptisms in the coming year. In addition, six catechumens are being prepared to be received into the Church later this year and a number of serious inquirers have been attending our classes on the Faith.

Five Orthodox Christians have made St. Athanasius their permanent parish home (having moved to town or transferred from another parish with their priest’s blessing). These people, particularly, have been a great gift to St. Athanasius because they have come to us “already formed” in the Church.

In July of this year, we also celebrated our first wedding ever to be held in our own chapel.

There have been no deaths in the history of our mission (and thus, no funerals).

Our average Sunday attendance is generally between 70 to 90 people. Our average Saturday evening attendance is about 35-40 and our Wednesday evening

attendance is 40-45. Attendance at our festal Vigils and Liturgies varies depending on the day of the week. Nonetheless, Vigil draws no fewer than 30 people and as many as 50. And Liturgy—because we celebrate it early enough so that people are still able to go to school and work (7AM)—draws no fewer than 30 on a Feast Day.

Liturgical Life:

At the heart of all that we do as an Orthodox mission is our common vocation to worship the Lord. For every Lord's Day cycle, we serve Great Vespers with the Matins Gospel Reading sequence. It is my hope to begin serving the Resurrectional All-Night Vigil during the Nativity Fast (and my hope is that it will "stick" afterwards). During the school year, a vibrant parish education program precedes the Sunday Liturgy.

Every Wednesday evening—following the custom of many other parishes in our diocese—St. Athanasius has generally celebrated Vespers (or in some cases just before I arrived, 9th Hour with a special program). Since becoming the priest here, I have reemphasized the worship component so that there is always a substantial service on Wednesday evening; but we vary the service according to need. So, for instance, we have had an infant Baptism on a Wednesday evening; we have also—when a parishioner was seriously ill—served a service of Holy Unction. If a particularly beloved saint (e.g., St. Sergius of Radonezh) is commemorated and we have no plans to celebrate a Vespers/Liturgy cycle for him, we nonetheless keep his memory that week by serving a Moleben with Akathist in our Wednesday evening slot. This kind of secondary commemoration provides me an opportunity to preach on his life and gives our entire community a chance to deepen our love for the saints. As it stands now, we still serve Wednesday Evening Daily Vespers about twice each month. Attendance is quite high on Wednesday evening regardless of the service served and the Wednesday service remains the primary entry point for newcomers into our mission. A class for newcomers always follows the Wednesday evening service.

By the time of his departure, Fr. David Rucker had already moved St. Athanasius to the point that each of the Twelve Great Feasts was being served. Over the past year, we have begun to serve standard two-hour Vigil services (Vespers and Matins) on the eves of all the Great Feasts. In the last seven months, we also have begun to serve Vespers and Liturgy for all the remaining "rank one" feasts (as outlined in His Eminence's Service Book). We are serving a Vespers/Liturgy cycle for most of the days in Bright Week and also for many of the "lesser" feasts (e.g., Procession of the Cross, St. Herman, Three-Hierarchs, Holy Spirit Day, St. Jacob Netsvetov, etc). In the coming years, we will strive to expand our efforts with regard to serving these and other services.

Ministries:

As a relative newcomer to St. Athanasius, I can say that I am impressed with our little mission's capacity for ministry. Our ministries or "stewardships" are each headed by a steward who functions under the general oversight of the priest and our mission council. Each steward is responsible for planning activities pertaining to his or her ministry and consults with the priest and council about budgetary needs as well as other general ministry needs. Among our stewardships are our church bookstore, children's ministry, choir ministry, hospitality ministry, parish library, web development and IT, altar-servers group, physical plant stewardship, grounds and landscaping stewardship,

vestment/parament ministry, and a women's group called the Handmaidens. We also have missions and IOCC stewardships that are tasked with bringing to our attention information that helps us to be more faithful participants in the great tasks of Orthodox mission and charity.

Our ministry stewards are doing an amazing amount of work. What makes it all the more amazing is that many of our ministries are operating on shoestring budgets or are otherwise completely unfunded. Our children's ministry functions on less than \$500 per year and does a great job (serving more than 20 children). Our choir director puts in many hours every month and has chosen not to receive any compensation. Our resources are meager and yet we are able to stretch our dollars miraculously. Our evangelism budget is a mere \$360 per year—none of which we were able to fund because of budget problems. (Protestant pastors would kill for this kind of return on evangelism dollars!) God is so good!

Our mission council has functioned beautifully this year. God has given me—during this time of transition—a competent and hard-working warden. In general, when I look at the council I see a group of people who will exercise leadership in our parish long after they have ceased to serve on the council. The overall dynamics of our council continue to be very healthy and I see no reason for that to change.

One of our parish "distinctives" is its special commitment to Orthodox missionary work. Many of the people in our parish—including my predecessor—came from Protestant missionary homes and thus respond readily to calls to support Orthodox missions. This year alone, by God's grace, we sent four short-term missionaries to Guatemala and Alaska and have continued to support OCMC with occasional special appeals.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Many of our greatest challenges are—not surprisingly—functions of our greatest blessings. The good news is that our mission successfully completed both diocesan and OCA church planting grants. The bad news—if we can even call it that—is that the completion of those grants has also signaled a radical decrease in the flow of outside cash into our mission. In the 12 months prior to my arrival in Nicholasville, our mission received about \$17,000 in aid from diocesan and OCA sources (church planting grants): that is \$17,000 per year that we now have to make up internally! My first month in the parish (December 2006) was the first month that these church planting funds completely dried up.

Another blessing/challenge/opportunity we are facing is the financial burden of paying for our new land. As already noted, St. Athanasius purchased in September of last year an additional 7 ½ acres of land at a very reasonable price and with extraordinarily favorable terms of interest (0%). While the purchase of this land is clearly a provision from the Lord, it nonetheless poses a short-term challenge to our community, as we have the burden paying \$75,000 over the course of three years, which amounts to an additional \$1,500 a month that our parishioners need to provide over and above our mission's basic operational expenses. We are faithfully making our payments each month, glory to God, but there is no doubt that giving to the land fund has impacted our general giving at the same time that we are being hit hard by our completion of the church planting programs. But I want to emphasize that our people here are doing good work and I am very proud of them and their awe-inspiring sacrificial giving.

One of the blessings of the pastoral transition is that it forced many people to step up to the plate in various ways. Over the course of two months, a new priest was installed, a new mission council was constituted, and a new treasurer took over the bookkeeping. The downside to the temporary disorder of transition, however, is that a number of things fell between the cracks. One of those things was the payment of the diocesan tithes and the national assessment.

From October 2006 (two months before my arrival) until March 2007, St. Athanasius did not pay its tithes or its assessment. As priest, I take full responsibility for this oversight. We have taken steps—as priest and council—to make sure that our diocesan tithes are written each time the priest is paid. Since March of this year, we have resumed the full payment of our tithes to the diocese. We have not, however, been able to come close to funding our burden to the diocese to pay our national OCA assessment. So far, we have only sent the diocese several hundred dollars towards our national obligation. We have sent such a small amount not due to any protest on our part, but simply because we are struggling to cobble the funds together for this outlay. At our next parish-wide meeting in September, we plan on discussing as a community the need for us to give beyond our tithes to cover our assessment. As it is now, however, we cannot fund this from our general budget without being completely in the red. At the diocesan assembly, I hope to receive instruction from the dean and from diocesan authorities as to how to take the next step forward.

Our mission has been blessed with an enormous wealth of human talent. Among our parishioners here are many young people, many of whom will go on to serve the Church in various ways outside of Kentucky. In August, we will be sending a family off to St. Vladimir's. Over the next two to three years, I anticipate sending no fewer than three additional families off to Orthodox seminaries or to OCMC. This is a great blessing for us. It also presents many challenges; but that challenge is part of St. Athanasius' broader vocation—one which I feel very much called to personally: preparing other men and their families for service in the Church.

I have felt blessed—as indeed have all of our people—by the close ties that are developing in the Lexington area among the Orthodox clergy and their parishes. For the first time in the history of the three parishes in the Lexington area, there was a concelebration among Antiochian, Greek, and OCA priests. Quite fittingly, we concelebrated a Saturday Liturgy that ended our Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School program. The Antiochian priest, Fr. Tom Gallaway, and his family have extended heart-warming hospitality to my wife and me. The foundations have been laid for a solid Pan-Orthodox presence in Lexington. Fr. Tom also invited me to be his guest at the Antiochian Mid-Western Conference and to be a judge at their diocesan oratorical contest.

With His Eminence's blessing, I have also pursued friendly relations with Holy Cross Monastery, in West Virginia (about 2 ½ hours by car from Lexington). Holy Cross is an English-language dependency of Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville. The monks have welcomed us warmly in their services (no clergy communion but lay people have received), they have allowed us to use their facilities for a men's retreat, and have been quite kind to us in every way. Our people have consistently come away from the monastery edified and renewed in spirit. This monastic community, I believe, will continue to be a blessing to our young mission as we mature in the Faith.

Conclusion:

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

Many challenges lie ahead. Yet with these challenges exist the very means by which our parish will grow—both spiritually and numerically. All the things that we will work through in the coming year and years will be the very things that prepare us for the next step(s). As God wills, I look forward to being here for many years to come: to be part of what will happen in the Bluegrass as a result of our humble attempts to *be* the Church in this place.

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

St. Proclus and Hilary

Fr. Stephen,

Greetings in Christ!

Last December the children at St. Seraphim put on a St. Nicholas play. One of the Dad's wrote the script and several mom's conducted the rehearsals and made costumes. We combined the play with a Christmas dinner on Saturday afternoon that everyone enjoyed.

Matushka Joanne Sutton provides Sunday School for the our kids which number from 4 to 16 per Sunday and are from 4 to 11 years old.

Our regular weekly schedule hasn't changed this year-Wednesday vespers, Saturday Great Vespers, Sunday morning matins at 8:45 and Liturgy at 10:00 but we have added an abbreviated matins service at 6 AM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

During Holy Week we greatly enjoyed the assistance and presence of Mother Nectaria of the Dormition Monastery. Mother Nectaria resides about an hour outside of Memphis at St. Paul Skete.

Our attendance at Pascha was over sixty and everyone who attended the Liturgy also stayed for the 3 AM Feast.

Attendance on Sundays is normally from 25 to 35 adults. We continue to have a potluck meal after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

Twice this year the Rhodes College Russian Studies Class has come to St. Seraphim to attend services and learn about Orthodoxy.

We continue to financially assist the OCF in Memphis as well as FOS.

Our church building continues to serve the Parish well and has needed only minimal attention. As well as conducting our services we also host the monthly meeting of the our neighborhood association and a Saturday School that one of our members offers for young children.

We currently have four persons desiring to enter the Church. We have had two infant baptisms, two weddings, and two funerals over the last year.

Prospects for the coming year look good. Our tithes are on track to surpass last year. Our people are willing to serve.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Mark Sutton

ST. TIKHON'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
CHATTANOOGA, TN

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

By The grace of God, our small parish has continued to grow. We have had seven adult baptisms and three babies. Only to give our every three-year tithe to seminary with two families planning on attending St. Vladimir's this fall, and having one beloved family move to Savannah.

Our Sunday school program has three classes every Sunday during the school year. The preschool and kindergarten class focuses on God's love for our family, our friends and us. The teachers use simple crafts and finger plays to teach basic theology and Church etiquette.

The 2006-2007 school year delved into a detailed study for all students on the Sacraments with a focus on Divine Liturgy and Confession.

The elementary age children will focus this upcoming school year on the spiritual training of our bodies and minds. We are fortunate to have a member of the parish with horses who will host the beginning of the year kick off party with a demonstration of the daily regime she uses to train her ponies and pony rides.

The middle and upper schoolchildren will focus on the first seven councils of Church History with the application to their daily lives. Different members of the parish will present short lectures on the controversies resolved in the council and the value of the council's decision in their lives. Many of the adults are personally involved with the topics; i.e. a former Catholic will discuss the primacy of Rome.

We have continued in the minimum of Wednesday and Saturday Vespers with the Hours on Sunday morning while the children are in Sunday school. After Great Vespers on Saturday evening, we pray one of the many canons during the hearing of Confessions.

We continue in the potluck brunch after Divine Liturgy on Sunday's to encourage hospitality since we are a small group of Orthodox Christians. We have an active Men's discussion group called the Orthodox Testosterone Society, so named by the participants observing themselves.

We have studied the advantage of building on to our current structure or building a new building with the authenticity of a true Orthodox place of worship. We have chosen the renovation of our present building with three estimates ranging from \$130,000. to \$160,000. However, there has been a revitalization program beginning in the downtown area allowing grants to facilitate growth and to establish a neighborhood. There are larger spaces available with more visibility for not much more money than the cost of the renovations. We continue to pray and seek God's will for the Church and its work.

Everyone at St. Tikhon's volunteered an incredible amount of time to host a yard sale with the proceeds going to the St. Mary and Martha House in California. Not only did we raise money, but the gift of service blessed us with a unity of spirit.

St. Cyprian of Carthage, OCA
Richmond, VA
Fr. David Arnold, Acting Rector

Census on August 31, 2006 = 46 adult members (communing and contributing), 23 children

Current Census = 42 adult members, 24 children

Since September 1, 2006, 4 adult members have either moved away from Richmond (2), established Eucharistic communion at another Richmond area parish (1), or fallen into self-excommunication (1).

We received one new member through Chrismation.

Since September 1, 2006, our records show 42 adult members (4 of whom are attending college away from Richmond) and 24 children (2 of whom will be counted as adults attending college away from Richmond this fall). In addition to these adult members and children, there are an additional 17 regularly attending adults, or at least those it would be hard not to consider a part of our parish community, who do not meet membership status because of lack of financial support of the parish. Some of these persons were reported as adult members last year. This brings our parish family to a size of 83 souls. It seems that some of these regular attendees may be contributing to the Church with cash offerings (unusually larger than last year), and do not desire to make their contributions known for tax reasons or church accounting. This could account for as many as 6 adults of the 17 not counted on the current census. A liberal accounting of adult members could be as many as 48.

Of these 17 adults, **there are two adult catechumens preparing to be received into the Church sometime following the Dormition Fast.** There are three seekers who grow closer to catechumen status.

Over the last year our parish has accomplished significant goals leading to the imminent construction of a permanent temple. We paid off the loan for the land that was purchased in June 2005 (\$250,000). We also raised over \$100,000 in direct contributions to the building fund, matching a challenge gift of \$100,000 that we expect to see before the end of the year. These funds have already been relied upon to pay for consultant's fees, soil testing, a well, and septic system plans. The building committee has worked diligently with the architect and civil engineer as we progressed through the planning phases of the project. Now, we expect bids to be returned on July 17, 2007, and await final approval of the ground disturbance application. The Site Plan Application has been approved, and we possess a building permit from Powhatan County. We hope there will be no more delays so that the project can begin before September. The architect estimated that construction could take 6-9 months, so we hope to be close to occupancy before Pentecost 2008.

Our parish continues to enjoy fellowship activities such as an annual fall campout (James River State Park), picnics at the new property, a Richmond Braves baseball game on "Church Night" at the Diamond, a women's retreat at a nice Roman Catholic facility near

Montpelier, fish fry dinners, and lengthy coffee hours under the shade of the oak and pecan trees in the back yard.

Fr. David attended the Virginia Council of Churches annual meeting held at the Virginia Disaster Response Headquarters in the State Police facility in Richmond. The presentations that day focused on disaster response and how local churches can participate in the needs brought about by natural and man-made disasters in our region or around the United States. Fr. David hopes to become a liaison between the state VOAD and the IOCC, which efficiently administers disaster relief and support around the world.

On the Feast of Annunciation, following the Festal Divine Liturgy, our parish enjoyed a day retreat led by Mary Ann DeTrana on the topic of “Godly Self Care.” This presentation fit in nicely with Fr. David’s Lenten series on the Mystery of Holy Anointing, or the ministry of healing in the Orthodox Tradition. As with most retreats on a fish, wine, oil day, we found this to be a wonderful occasion for a fish fry.

Fr. David became actively involved in statewide OCF planning and leadership, joining other regional clergy in this pan-jurisdictional effort. After a leadership retreat in January, students and clergy worked together to provide regular meetings at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia, and William & Mary campuses. This included a fall retreat near Charlottesville and a spring retreat in Williamsburg. The VCU and W&M leaders already have the fall semester planned, and are ready to make a splash at the student activities night on each campus.

The Christian owned and operated coffee house that was the venue for a weekly informal “chat” location had to close because of high overhead costs, and because of competition (Starbucks) that moved in on the other side of the shopping center. Fr. David now meets weekly with seekers, catechumens, and anyone who wants to chat over coffee or tea at the Starbucks. This has helped three people ease their way into the Church.

Wednesday evening Vespers attendance has grown consistently over the past year, allowing another opportunity for instruction and fellowship. Fr. David has been working on a melodic (singable) Daily Vespers service that is simple but also beautiful with 2 or 20.

Susan Skirpan, our Liturgical Music Coordinator, has worked with Fr. David to begin using the newly published Divine Liturgy books (SVS) in support of our singing the Divine Liturgy together. Another musician in our parish, Edward Wright, has joined Susan in sharing the music director responsibilities. Susan traveled with Fr. David to St. Mark OCA, Bethesda, MD, for a workshop sponsored by the Department of Liturgical Music. We anticipate that our transition to a new worship space will be hard, given the intimate space we have enjoyed, and some of the practices it demanded us to accept. Growing into a new and larger space will challenge us, but we intend on maintaining the strong cooperative spirit that is our congregational singing of the services, while growing into some of the rubric details of the services that our space previously did not easily support.

Deanery of Appalachia, Diocese of the South, Report for 2007

Our parish family has taken on an even greater pan-ethnic profile as several families attracted by the monthly Slavonic/Russian Liturgy are now more integrated in and faithfully supportive of the English services and have become even more connected with the parish as their language skills improve. Our ethnic profile now includes multi-generational Americans of various origins, as well as recently immigrated Russians, Ukrainians, and Romanians. One Russian member, Olga Bobrovskaya, has introduced Fr. David to her priest in Nizhni Novgorod, and they are beginning to communicate through helpful translation efforts.

As we look to the coming year, the accomplishment of our building program will be incredible, and will open a whole new chapter in our parish history. It is hard to let oneself even anticipate what this will be like, but overall, the mission remains before us to offer the truths of Orthodox Christianity to our region, aggressively looking to plant another Church on the other side of Richmond as we approach the capacity of our facility (200), and working with our Deanery to plant other parishes around Virginia. Glory to God for all things!

Humbly submitted,

Priest David

The Rev. Fr. David Arnold
Acting Rector
St. Cyprian of Carthage, OCA
Richmond, VA

SAINT ANDREW'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America
117 Linden Street, Ashland, VA 23005
Fr. Mark Hodal, Rector
804.798.3799



July 10, 2007
St. Anthony of the Kiev Caves

Dear Father Stephen,

Greetings and God bless you in His Vineyard.

St. Andrew's is currently serving about 50 or so adults and of course some children. We have half the number that are actually on the books as 'members;' but we have a fluid group that comes regularly (not usually all at once). Even on our slowest summer Sundays, we have 20 people receiving Holy Communion.

We've had a wedding and a few infant baptisms this last year, and two of our oldest members died. Our adult classes and educational sessions are well received. There seems to be an interest in continuing study and receiving the benefit of fellowship while examining the Living Word together as a group.

We finished the parish hall this last year. We put in a new concrete ramp with stainless steel rails at the entrance to the Temple. We also laid in new sidewalks, wooden deck and ramp/stairs to the parish hall. We put a sump pump in the yard where there was a water problem during heavy rain, fenced in the back yard, and put up children's playground equipment. We have taken the slow route in working on the 'physical plant' because we own the church with no mortgage and want to keep it that way.

I have someone who wants to be a Deacon in our church and someone else who want to be a Sub-Deacon. I would like to talk with you about this. We also would like to develop a relationship with you; we would like to invite you out here to get to know St. Andrew's Parish and its members. We had this type of relationship with Fr. Peter and hope we can work out some times for visits.

I will not be able to be at the Diocesan gathering, more out of economic concerns and juggling responsibilities between church, family and home, and full-time work load in the 'marketplace.'

As always, your brother in Christ,

Father Mark Hodal
Rector, St. Andrew's Church