



# Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania

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## Annual Report of the Chancellor

5 November 2022

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

I begin my 11<sup>th</sup> annual report by reviewing the six broad areas of responsibility given me in my role as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and W PA. (Please note that the position of chancellor remains a part-time position - all this diocesan work is in addition to my responsibilities as full-time parish priest at the Holy Ghost Church in Ambridge.)

1. The ruling bishop assigns areas of responsibilities and scope of decision-making, but, in general, the ruling hierarchy relies on his chancellor as a trusted assistant in the day-to-day administration of the diocese and holds him accountable in assigned areas.
2. The chancellor supports and/or guides the work of the various departments, projects, and committees.
3. The chancellor assists in the development and accomplishment of the diocesan goals, including such areas as budget and financial management.
4. The chancellor guides and/or supervises the work of the other members of the diocesan administration.
5. The chancellor serves as a voting member of the Archdiocesan Council and is responsible for planning the Council's meetings and later for implementation of the Council's decisions in cooperation with other members of the diocesan administration, committee chairs, etc.
6. The chancellor represents the ruling hierarchy in religious and spiritual activities and acts with the blessing of the hierarchy in his absence in dealing authoritatively with clergy/laity of the diocese as well as inter-Orthodox relationships and relationships with other religious bodies and laity organizations.

Here is a review of some selected tasks/activities done as chancellor since our 2019 Assembly occurred:

- ~ Frequent contact with ruling hierarchy concerning diocesan administration
- ~ Preparations for Archdiocesan Council meetings (i.e., agenda/ compilation of needed reports/ meeting notifications, etc.)
- ~ Meetings with investment firms concerning diocesan investment accounts
- ~ Coordination of the hierarchy's Archpastoral visitations, meetings calendar, and transportation needs
- ~ Frequent communications with the deans
- ~ Frequent communications with OCA Chancery staff and administrations of other Orthodox jurisdictions and O.C.A. dioceses concerning common administrative matters
- ~ Numerous meetings/ emails/ phone calls with clergy and laity concerning problems, requests for assistance, transfers, conflicts, etc. in diocesan parishes
- ~ Frequent meetings & communication with Building & Grounds Chair Dn. Seraphim Truckley

- ~ Numerous conversations (phone/emails/meetings) with Joseph Kormos concerning Parish Development Program + group emails to diocesan clergy and laity about the program's goals
- ~ Frequent updates concerning the diocese to the group email list
- ~ Attended the 2022 All-Parish (virtual) Forum chaired by Joseph Kormos
- ~ Communications with Archpriest Alexander Cadman, Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy Coordinator, + contacts with local priests & laity concerning policy implementation
- ~ Worked with webmaster Kristie Mertz to update the diocesan web site
- ~ Regular chancery administrative duties (done at least once a week at the chancery office and at my Ambridge parish office remotely during the remainder of each week) – working with Administrative Assistant Omelan Mycyk and Archdiocesan Treasurer Alexi Parshook frequently
- ~ Provided personal car transportation for the archbishop when other modes weren't available
- ~ Budget preparation process coordinated with archbishop, treasurer, and budget committee
- ~ Monitored the status of the two-year-old Legacy Parish Assistance Program (LPAP)
- ~ Participated in on-line conference meetings of the various OCA diocesan chancellors along with OCA Chancellor Archpriest Alexander Rentel throughout the year
- ~ Attended the Baltimore, MD, All-American Council (Vested in Altar with the OCA diocesan chancellors representing the Archdiocese at the Thursday morning Synodal Hierarchical Liturgy)

As an overview of the Archdiocese: we currently have officially 40 parishes configured into three geographical deaneries - Eastern Deanery (16 parishes); Northwest Deanery (11 parishes); Southwest Deanery (13 parishes). Thirty-eight of the 40 parishes are considered "active" (at some level!) with full-time priests, part-time priests, or services being periodically conducted by visiting priests or deacons. Two of the 40 parishes (Duquesne and Patton) are considered "inactive" spiritually and financially since they are currently not having parish services or activities. Some statistical perspective might prove useful: nine of the 38 "active" parishes listed are without an officially assigned priest (Amsterdam (Wolf Run), Blairsville (Black Lick), Donora, Lyndora, Monessen, Monongahela, Philipsburg, Steubenville, and West Brownsville) although there is always the possibility that appointments/transfers may decrease that number. These nine parishes are serviced by the chancellor, local dean, retired diocesan priests, non-OCA priests, diocesan deacons, or local reader service.

There are currently 40 priests officially under the omophorion of Archbishop MELCHISEDEK – 28 on "active" service (with varying types of assignments) and 12 priests officially "retired." There are 14 archdiocesan deacons attached by the hierarch to the various parishes within our boundaries. Total number of OCA/Archdiocese of PGH and W PA clergy is therefore "54." The current 2022 parish census membership for the Archdiocese is "1,756" - - this compares to the previous figure of "1,889" for 2021 and "1,989" for 2019/20. (This is a 7% loss from 2021 to the present.)

The area dean, working in tandem with the chancellor, becomes responsible for parishes spiritually and administratively on behalf of the bishop when no priest is assigned, assisted by other priests and deacons as the local dean and/or chancellor assign. The deans work closely with me concerning the scheduling of clergy to service these vacant parishes. The large number of vacancies spread far apart geographically causes much difficulty, but we strive to service these parishes equitably. This task becomes more difficult when clergy vacations start to multiply during the summer months for additional parishes. Fr. Mark Meholick is Dean of the Eastern Deanery while Fr. Andrew P. Nelko is Dean of the Southwest Deanery. In addition to my duties as Chancellor, I also function as Dean of the Northwest Deanery - with Fr. Thomas Soroka as

Associate Dean. I offer my sincere THANKS to the deans - - their effective administrative leadership is vital for this Archdiocese.

Items of Note:

1. The diocesan hierarch expects each of the diocesan parishes to directly enact a minimum **6% cost-of-living adjustment** for the salaries of our parish priests effective January 1, 2023. (This is still less than the projected 8.7% Social Security benefits increase announced for 2023.) We must continue to strive and raise the base salaries of the diocesan clergy after years of “falling behind,” making it hard to attract (and keep!) qualified clergy in the Archdiocese. Parishes with questions about the level of clergy support required in 2022 nationally within the OCA should consult the special page dealing with the subject of clergy compensation at [www.oc.org](http://www.oc.org).

2. A reminder concerning **substitute clergy honoraria** in the Archdiocese that was mandated beginning July 1, 2022 – substitute priests celebrating Sunday Liturgies should receive no less than \$225 plus round-trip vehicle mileage per the I.R.S. rate in effect on that date from the parish utilizing his services. Overnight lodging and miscellaneous expenses as they arise would, of course, be discussed and agreed upon in advance. Deacons substituting on Sundays in our parishes should receive no less than \$175 plus round-trip mileage as described above. Honoraria for other weekday services or special services can be discussed separately should they arise. Please contact your local Dean, or me, should questions arise about these stipends.

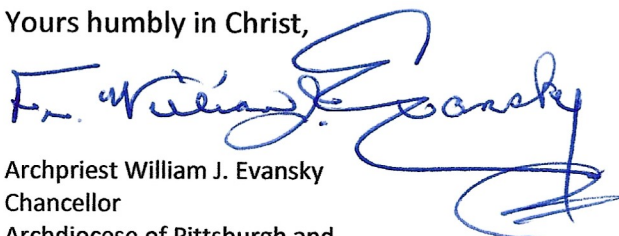
Reminder: clergy substitutes in our parishes are coordinated through the local dean – NOT arranged independently by the parish or the parish priest. Any parish priest who will be absent on a Sunday from the parish assignment must notify the dean as far in advance as possible- - this includes for such things as vacations, health issues, inclement weather, etc. This helps make the assignment of clergy must more orderly and avoids conflicts.

3. I want to thank the many parishes and parish priests who responded positively to my 2021 comments about adherence to our **administrative protocols** in a timely manner. While still NOT “universal,” most of our parishes DID make a good effort in being timely with completing and returning required information. DARE I hope for 100% adherence in 2023?! THANKS!

Conclusion

I offer my heartfelt THANKS to all who have diligently labored alongside me in the Archdiocese during the past year. I especially thank everyone for their patience during the period since His Eminence was hospitalized - - it has been quite hectic for the Archdiocesan administration! I also sincerely ask forgiveness for any shortcomings of mine as Chancellor should they have affected you adversely in 2022! May the Lord’s blessings be upon us as we work to glorify Christ in 2023!

Yours humbly in Christ,



Archpriest William J. Evansky  
Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and  
Western Pennsylvania  
Orthodox Church in America