

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention greets His Holiness Bulgarian Patriarch Neofit and Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church – Bulgarian Patriarchate and offers our prayers that they may continue with spiritual and physical strength to exercise firm leadership in the spirit of the Holy Church Fathers for many more blessed years.

2. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention expresses prayers and thanks to the Lord for all His blessings to our parish churches and missions, to our Metropolitan, Vicar Bishop, priests, deacons, monks, sub deacons, readers, choirs, Sunday School teachers and beloved faithful.

3. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention prays for our retired clergy: Protopresbyter Professor Blagoy Tchifflianov in Canada, Archpriest Velin Iliev and Archpriest Sasho Manasiev in Australia, Fr. Krustan Vukashinov in Bulgaria and Fr. Slavcho Panev in the USA.

4. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention continues to pray for the eternal memory and blessed repose of the souls of the departed this life: His Holiness Patriarch Maxim and the Diocesan clergy: Metropolitans Andrey, Joseph and Ghelasii, Bishop Parthenii, Archimandrite Damian Marinov, Archpriest Dimiter Popov, Archpriest Ivan Minchev, Archpriest Boris Georgieff, Archpriest Peter Stamboldjiev, Archpriest Stevan Mitov, Archpriest Christo Christoff, Archpriest Blagoy Topuzliev, Archpriest Marko Kosev, Archpriest Panayot Pamukov, Archpriest Vladimir Tzvetanov, Priest Benjamin Titlebaum and Deacon Mark Colby. We also pray for the newly departed Metropolitan Simeon of Western and Central Europe, who served a long time ago in our Diocese. He was buried in May this year in Rila monastery, according to his will. Vechnaia pamiat!

5. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention rejoices and greets Fr. Deacon Michael Tishel, who was ordained into the Holy Deaconate by His Grace Bishop Daniil and attached to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church (Allston, MA). Now Fr. Deacon Michael is working at Hellenic College Holy Cross Theological Seminary. Fr. Deacon Michael is rejoicing of the love of his wife Deaconissa Katherine and daughter, his parents, community and many friends in the Lord. Many years Fr. Deacon Michael Tishel! Axios! Worthy! Dostoen!

6. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention offers our sincere greetings to Fr. Hieromonk Vissarion Nikolov, who was elected by the congregation of “St. George” Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, CA, and appointed as their Parish Pastor, replacing Fr. Petko Elenkin, who returned to his previous Diocese of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Wholeheartedly we wish Fr. Vissarion many blessed years in his service to the Lord and our faithful of “St. George” community. Chestito Fr. Vissarion! Axios! Worthy! Dostoen!

7. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention would like to express our sincere congratulations to Rev. Fr. Antonie Popsky as a new priest of our Diocese, who after his canonical release from ROCOR and his election by the parishioners of “St. Clement” Macedono-Bulgarian Orthodox Church of Dearborn, MI, he was installed as parish priest by His Grace Bishop Daniil, replacing the retired Priest Fr. Slavcho Panev. From the bottom of our

hearts we wish Fr. Antonie, his Popadia Sashka and son Luka many blessed years of successful service to God and our wonderful faithful of “St. Clement” community. Welcome home Fr. Antonie! Axios!

We also greet the Chairman of the Church Board of Trustees Mr. George Rochette, who is our delegate here, for the tremendous work of finding and having Fr. Antonie in our midst. Thank you, George, for the job very well done. Chestito!

8. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention heard with attention the warm request of Subdeacon Donald Elliott of his resignation as a member of the Diocesan Mixed Council, accepts it and expresses our love and satisfaction of his long service as a member of our Diocesan Mixed Council and a President of the Church Committee of “St. Clement” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church – our biggest church in the Diocese. We say in one voice: Thank you, Subdeacon Donald! We wish you many blessed years in health to continue your long service in our beloved “St. Clement” Church!

9. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention approves the appointment by Metropolitan Joseph - Mr. George Rochette, the Chairman of the Church Board of Trustees of “St. Clement” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of Dearborn MI, to be a new member of the Diocesan Mixed Council for the next four years (2017 – 2020). Axios! Congratulations, George!

10. **Be** it resolve that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention rejoices and congratulates our sister “St. Herman of Alaska” Orthodox Church of Hudson, OH, her parish pastor Fr. Archpriest Basil Rusen, Fr. Deacon Basil Walacce, our Diocesan Mixed Council member Reader David Lewis and all beloved parishioners for their great work in finding a better place for their worshipping and for their wonderful preparation of this new home of prayer, truly blessed by God. Bravo Fr. Basil! Bravo Reader David! Bravo Benjamin and all brothers and sisters in the Lord of Hudson. Indeed, God loves you!

11. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention is so pleased to express our gratitude to Fr. Archpriest Philip McCaffery and Fr. Archpriest Fr. Peter Bunitsky for organizing clergy Govenie retreat this year during Great Lent in Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church of East Syracuse, NY. As always all 22 Diocesan clergy were spiritually blessed to get together in brotherly love and spiritual growth during this special period of the year. We are more delighted that these two beloved brothers and fathers invited us to come back again next year with something special in our program – the pilgrimage to the wiping icon of the Mother of God “Gerontissa”. Thank you, Fr. Philip and Fr. Peter, for your kindness and love. God bless you!

12. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention congratulates our sister “St. George” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of Toronto, Canada, her President of the Church Executive Committee Dr. Simeon Simeonov and all parishioners on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of existence in September this year. Wholeheartedly we wish many more blessed years of spiritual and material growth for the glory of God and salvation of our beloved faithful. Na mnogaia leta!

13. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention would like to salute Popadia Junia Tolbert for her talents and desire to organize for more than one decade popadias and deaconissas gatherings as part of our Annual Diocesan Conventions. Popadia Junia always receives the Patriarchal greetings (10 from Patriarch Maxim of blessed memory and two from Patriarch Neofit). In their agendas Popadia Junia includes a dinner of Popadias and Deaconissas with their husbands and special “time-tea with dedo Vladika”. They are always planning a vesper service, matins, Divine Liturgy with confession and communion and Akatist to the Holy Theotokos. Thank you, Popadia Junia! Thank you, popadias and deaconissas for your great endeavors to have your gatherings together with us! We value you lives and work as popadias and deaconissas of our parishes and our Diocese. We love your gatherings because they strengthen your relationship with Christ and renew your service to our Lord, your husbands, parishes and the Diocese. We thank you for making your ministry real, for being Orthodox Christian models in this modern age, for helping others find their way to the Lord, for your juggling acts – to keep your families, homes, churches, role models and prayers. God bless you! We love you!

14. **Be** it resolved that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention recognizes as our canonical clergy the following servants of God:

Metropolitan Joseph Bosakov of the USA, Canada and Australia;

Bishop Daniil Nikolov, Vicar of the Metropolitan;

Ikonom Petar Totev of “Sts. Kiril & Metodi Bulgarian Orthodox Diocesan Cathedral”, NYC;

Protopresbyter Dimitar Angelov of “St. Stephen” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Indianapolis, IN;

Archpriest Vladimir Bakardjiev and Deacon James Walterberger of “St. Thomas” Eastern Orthodox Church, Fairlawn, OH;

Archpriest Grouiu Tzonkov of “St. Sophia” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL, and the attached Archpriest Bozhidar Dimov;

Archpriest Patrick Tishel and assistants Archpriest Michael Kon and Priest Teodor Anastasoae, Deacon John Williamson, Deacon Andrey Sukharev, Deacon Tudor Sambeteanu and Deacon Michael Tishel of “Holy Resurrection” Orthodox Church, Allston, MA;

Archpriest Michael Oyer and assistants: Archpriest David Scopp, Priest Stephen Steineck, Protodeacon James Hughes, Deacon Samuel Woolums and attached Archpriest Philip Tolbert of “Holy Dormition” Orthodox Church, Santa Rosa, CA;

Archpriest Stevan Bauman and assistant Priest John Miller and Priest John Koen, who is on loan to the “Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church” in the city of Indianapolis, IN, Protodeacon Michael Walker and nun Theophania of “Joy of All Who Sorrow” Orthodox Church”, Indianapolis, IN;

Archpriest Philip McCaffery and Archpriest Peter Bunitsky of “Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, East Syracuse, NY;

Archpriest Basil Rusen and Deacon Basil Walacce of “St. Herman of Alaska” Orthodox Church, Hudson, OH;

Priest Antonie Poposki of “St. Clement Ohridski” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Dearborn, MI;

Archimandrite Gregory and Deacon Michael Urbansky of “Holy Ghost” Orthodox Church of Sterling Heights, MI;

Igumen Mefodii, Hieromonk Kyrill and Brother Paul of “St. Maximus the Confessor” Skete in Palmyra, Virginia;

Archpriest Roumen Pelovsky of “St. Petka” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Boston, MA;

Priest Jerome Sanderson and Deacon Lucian Stant, of “Christ the Savior” Orthodox Mission, Nashville, IN;

Priest Michael Furry, “St. Innocent” Orthodox Mission of Roanoke, VA;

Priest Michael Michailov of “St. Sophia” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Phoenix, AZ;

Priest Ivan Malinov of “Holy Trinity” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Madison, IL;

Priest Todor Dimitrov, “St. Nikolas” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Hollywood, FL;

Priest Gregory Owen, “Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church”, Southwest Lower Michigan;

Priest Milovan Djerasimovich of “All Saints” Bulgarian-Macedonian Orthodox Mission. Buffalo, NY;

Hieromonk Vissarion Nikolov, “St. George” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, CA;

Deacon Atanas Megerov, “St. George” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Orlando, FL;

Archpriest Valery Choumarov of “Sts. Cyril & Methody” Macedono-Bulgarian Orthodox Cathedral, Toronto;

Archpriest Velichko Michailov of “Holy Trinity” Macedono-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Toronto, ON;

Priest Anthonij Filchak of “St. George” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Toronto, ON, who is on loan from ROCOR with the blessing of Bishop Gabriel of Canada;

Archpriest Milan Radulovic of “St. Dimitar” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Brampton, ON, and “Holy Ascension” Orthodox Church, Richmond Hill, ON;

Priest Dimitar Shumov of “St. Ivan Rilsky” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Montreal, QC;

Priest Boris Krieger and Deacon Dimitri Komrakov of “Holy Transfiguration” Orthodox Mission, Huntsville, ON;

Priest Todor Grozdanov, “St. John of Rila” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Niagara Falls, ON;

Archpriest Alexander Popov, Bishop’s Vicar for Australia and Pastor of “Sts. Kiril & Methody” Bulgarian Orthodox Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia;

Archpriest Todor Popov, “St. Petka” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Adelaide, Australia;

Archpriest Sasho Manasiev of Sydney and Priest Velin Iliev of Melbourne, Australia, Priest Germogen Tucker, Priest Joshua Resnick, Deacon Jerome Nietubicz and Deacon Anthony May are at Metropolitan’s service.

**15. Be it resolved** that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention congratulates Fr. Archpriest Patrick Tishel, the Church Board and members of “Holy Resurrection” Orthodox Church, staff and teachers for providing a classical elementary education in “St. Herman of Alaska Christian School” of Allston, MA, for many years.

**16. Be it resolved** that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention rejoices that Fr. Deacon Teodor Anastasoiaie of “Holy Resurrection” Orthodox Church in Allston, MA, was ordained by His Grace Bishop Daniil into the Holy Priesthood. Fr. Teodor continues to be instrumental in tending the seed of the Diocesan monastery dedicated to St. John the Baptist in Boston, MA. He is still a salaried teacher at “St. Herman’s School”, so that his ordination will not be a burden on the parish finances. Axios!

**17. Be it resolved** that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention congratulates the President of the Bulgarian Diocesan Sts. Martha and Mary Sisterhood Popadia Susan Furry, the Secretary Mary Drippe, and all sisters for their tremendous work in support of “St. Nicholas orphanage” in Bulgaria. The Sisterhood of the Diocese gave to Fr. Ivan the donation in 2012 the amount of \$6,047.20; in 2013 - \$7,500.00; in 2014 - \$28,941.00 and in 2015 - \$17,916.99 or in total: \$60,405.28 USD. Fr. Ivan signed a special gramota of thanksgiving to all sisters of the Diocese. Thank you, Popadia Susan and all sisters, for your great mission to promote and inspire a love and reverence for the Holy Orthodox Faith and her traditions through a ministry of charitable deeds, care for our churches, Orthodox Christian hospitality, and prayer. Thank you to all sisterhoods of each parish, “united in the spirit of holiness and philanthropy... with love for God and men” (Quote from Patriarch Maxim’s Patriarchal Greeting, 2011). God bless you!

**18. Be it resolved** that the Diocese at its 41st Annual Convention would like to greet our fathers and popadias:

- Fr. Archpriest Patrick with Popadia Paula Tishel and Romanian Father Viorel Anastasoiaie with his Popadia for education and spiritual perfection in preparing their children the newly ordained Fr. Priest Teodor and Popadia Vera Anastasoiaie to work for us;
- Fr. Archpriest Patrick with Popadia Paula and Fr. Mishael with Popadia Susan Furry for giving us the newly ordained Fr. Deacon Michael and Deaconissa Katherine Tishel to establish their

new Orthodox family and home in our midst, and

- Fr. Archpriest David with Popadia Elizabeth Skopp and Fr. Archpriest Philip with Popadia Junia Tolbert for their cares and blessing their children Gregory and Rebekah Skopp to enjoy their new home and mutual life in our Diocese.

Thank you Fathers and Popadias for your great example that your blessed children to follow your Orthodox way of life. We are proud of you! Rejoice and be exceedingly glad!

**19.** Be it resolved that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention continues to pray for Gabriel McHugh, a student at Holy Cross whom it has supported with a \$2,600.00 stipend for his first year tuition, approves and blesses his request to suspend his studies at Holy Cross in order to enroll in a masters of mathematics program that will allow him to generate teaching income, needed before he resumes his theological studies.

**20.** Be it resolve that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention rejoices at the accomplishments in legally forming “Saint John the Baptist” Monastery in Warwick, MA, and obtaining 501©(3) status, and through these accomplishments is now positioned for Abbott Bishop Daniil together with the Monastery Board – consisting in addition to Bishop Daniil of the Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Tishel, Rev. Fr. Teodor Anastasoia, Ephraim Roberson, and John Walker – to inform us of future plans regarding tonsure and possible later ordinations of Ephraim and John.

**21.** Be it resolved that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention approves both the request of Fr. Archpriest Valeri Choumarov, parish priest of “Sts Cyril and Methoy” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Cathedral of Toronto, Canada, to be released of all his obligations and responsibilities as a member of the Diocesan Board of Trustees and accepts the nomination of Dr. William (Bill) George of “St. George” Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of Toronto, Canada, to be a member of the Diocesan Board of Trustees for the next four years (2016 - 2020), effective immediately. Thank you, Fr. Valery, for your service! Congratulations, Dr. Bill George!

**22.** Be it resolved that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention rejoices over the ordination by His Grace Bishop Daniil of Rev. Fr. Atanas Megerov into the Holy Priesthood and of his appointment as the parish priest of “St. George” Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Orlando, FL. Chestita Hirotonia, Fr. Atanas! Congratulations! Axios! Worthy! Dostoen! Na mnogaia leta!

**23.** Be it resolved that the Diocese at its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention rejoices in their acceptance and approval for membership into the Diocese of the newly formed “St. Nedelya” Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Sarasota, FL; “St. Zlata of Meglen” Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, and “St. Nicholas the Wonderworker” Bulgarian Orthodox Church, located in Atlanta, Georgia. Welcome home! Congratulations!

#### **24. SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRICIATION FOR THE HOST PARISH**

**WHEREAS, “Saint Sophia” Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of Des Plaines, IL, has graciously hosted the 41st Annual Convention of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia;**

**AND WHEREAS, the Pastors Fr. Archpriest Grouiu Tzonkov and Archpriest Bozhidar Dimov, the Church Committee with its President Dr. Michael Nikolov, the Convention Committee and all the beloved faithful have not spared any effort to organize this Convention and to provide for the utmost enjoyment and spirituality of the delegates and the guests;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 41st Annual Diocesan Convention, dully assembled in Des Plaines, IL, from July 14 - 17, 2016, extends to them by acclamation its heartfelt appreciation for an outstanding and extraordinary Convention.**

*Submitted by: The Diocesan Mixed Council*