

## **The Annual General Diocesan Convention**

The 2014 Annual Convention of the Diocese took place on July 17 – 20 in Chicago, IL., USA, in the newly consecrated church of St. Sofia.

Head and administrator of the Diocese is His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, who has his seat in New York. Since few years Metropolitan Joseph has a vicar bishop – His Grace Bishop Daniil. Besides the two bishops, the Diocese has 52 more clergymen – priests and deacons. Some churches have more than one clergyman. For example: “Holy Assumption” in Santa Rosa, California has 4 priests and 1 archdeacon; “Holy Resurrection” in Allston, MA has 2 priests and 4 deacons. According to the By-laws of the Diocese and the Canons of the Orthodox Church, the Metropolitan is the Supervisor of the priests and deacons.

Together with the Annual Convention of the Diocese there was Popadia’s Conference and Conference of the Bulgarian Orthodox Youth Apostolate.

The newly consecrated church “St. Sophia” in Chicago with parish priest Very Reverend Fr. Gerry Tzonkov, had all the proper facilities to accommodate the meetings of the representatives of the parishes, the plenary session of the Convention, the traditional banquet last evening and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, officiated by Metropolitan Joseph and all the clergy and attended by all the participants in the convention and by parishioners of “St. Sophia”. Such Liturgy is a rare thing even in America.

This was the 39<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese. At the beginning of the Convention, the Metropolitan read Patriarchal Greeting to the Convention. The Metropolitan also presented report “State of the Diocese”, the Treasurer presented the financial report of the Diocese, all parish priests had a chance to make a short 3 min. presentation of their parishes. The Convention ended with Resolutions. Resolution #11 of the 39<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia says:

“Be it resolved that the Diocese at its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention expresses our thankfulness to the Very Rev. Fr. Velichko Mihaylov, parish priest and Mr. Nick Stefanoff, president of the Church Executive of Holy Trinity Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church in Toronto, Canada, for their successful service for the good estate of the church and our Diocese.”

In my opinion if something good had happened at Holy Trinity Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church during the last year, then the credit for this should go to the whole church committee, to the members and to the whole fraternity of the Holy Trinity. May God give us good and successful year ahead under His blessing and for His glory!

V. Rev. Velichko Mihaylov,  
Parish Priest of Holy Trinity  
Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church.