**CHANCELLOR’S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

* Thank you to His Beatitude for his care for, and leadership of, the Archdiocese; his visitation to the parishes; his initiation of new archdiocesan ministries; and the time he spends with me in discussing Archdiocesan matters.
* Thank you to my fellow clergy and to the parish lay leaders for being such a wonderful group to work with.
* Asking your prayers for Fr. Paul Harrilchak. He is gradually recovering from a series of medical issues that have had him hospitalized and in rehab for the past two plus months.
* Many positive healthful signs in the Archdiocese;
  + More Archdiocesan services and Archdiocesan Choir activities
  + Very robust Diaconal Vocations Program (DVP) – with 7 out of the 35 participants in this past summer’s “practicum” at St. Vlad’s
  + Initiation of a Archdiocesan Vocational Training practicum (deacons, deacons-to-be, Readers and Altar Servers)
  + 50th Anniversary of Fr. Ted’s ordination of the Holy Priesthood
  + Ordination of Michael Day to the Holy Diaconate
  + Elevation of All Saints Mission to parish status
  + Temporary assignment of Fr. John Mikitish to St. John’s Mission Station
  + Voluntary rotation of deacons from 4 parishes to help St. John’s
  + St. Luke is beginning the construction of their new church
  + Archdiocesan support of Holy Trinity during Fr. Paul’s illness
* Providing substitute clergy during Fr. Paul’s on-going illness has highlighted our clergy shortage problem. Fr. Joseph Woodill was able to cover most of the Sunday Liturgies during August and September, but cannot do so going forward. Since we do not have any “supply priests” in the Archdiocese – Fr. John Vitko has volunteered to conduct a Saturday Liturgy at Holy Trinity every other Saturday until Fr. Paul recovers. The parish will serve a Typika service on those weekends when Fr. John is not available. ***If there are other priests who would be willing to serve a Saturday Liturgy on those “off” Saturdays that would mean a great deal to Holy Trinity.***
* The clergy supply issue is not just an issue for Holy Trinity. It is big strategic issue/concern for our Archdiocese. About half our rectors are retirement age eligible and one can anticipate a fairly large turn over in the next five years or so. Finding new priests for these parishes will be a major challenge – given the shortage of priests overall and the fact that our Archdiocese does not have any candidates in seminary at this time. I think part of this problem has to be dealt with at the national level, but there are things that our local parishes can do. Having a deacon may possibly help your current rector stay in his position for a longer term. As to prospective new priests, they will likely be looking for:
  + Vibrant parishes: dedicated parishioners and a robust liturgical life;
  + Livable salary: as close to the OCA guidelines (median household income for the area) as possible

So the more you can do to position yourself for this, the better position you will be in to attract a new priest.