

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE

OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

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The 19th Triennial Assembly of clergy and laity of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese ROCOR 14-17 November 2019

Having heard reports concerning the life of our Parishes, Deaneries and Monasteries we are gratified by the work and life in the development of our diocese for the past three years. However, we are concerned at the trend of people (especially the youth) leaving the life of the Church. Therefore, many parishes are experiencing difficulties with finances and attendance.

Various suggestions were made as to how we could assist parishes with their problems over the next 3 years. We note with gratitude the work done in our diocese in regard to inspiring our youth in being spiritually aware and responsive to their heritage.

We mourn the passing of Archpriest Simeon Kichakov, Priest Seraphim Slade and Deacon Simeon Polorotov and pray for their repose in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The situation in the Canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church is most distressing and we pray that the schisms and misunderstandings be soon resolved by the Holy Spirit. In our Diocese, this sadly has affected our relationship with the Greek Orthodox Church and it is our hope that canonical communion may soon be restored.

There are two major events, which will occupy the attention of the diocese in the near future. The first is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and the second is the 200th anniversary of the Russian Orthodox presence in Australia. It is expected that these celebrations will be nationwide and all our clergy and faithful will take part in celebrating these dates.

An event of recent significance was the establishment of the Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute which is greatly welcomed and supported by all parishes.

This Assembly reminds us about the oneness of the body of the Church in the spiritual reality of our diocese. Our Archpastors remind us that these assemblies manifest the work of the Holy Spirit in overcoming divergent forces and bringing about not simply a functional, but a spiritual unity.

For the first time this Assembly has planned to conclude its deliberations with the concelebrating of the Divine Liturgy. All members of the clergy together with the faithful will pray in the Sydney Cathedral to show our unity in the Holy Eucharist.

We thank our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for his abundant bounties poured upon our Australian and New Zealand Diocese.
