

Report of the Mission's Coordinator Diocesan Assembly 2009

This report begins with customary disclaimer for any repetition that may be in the deanery reports. I have only reported on what I have interacted significantly with this past year and/or visited. The work of the Mission Coordinator is in flux, transitioning in some manner to be a work of the deans together. More to come.

Austin/Round Rock/Georgetown, TX Mission Station This mission station started off with 20 people and hit a bad bump. When I visited in October 08 the mission was decimated. Only four people were left, including the lay leader who was a catechumen. The mission was restarted under the leadership of Fr John Filipovich and has taken off. They have rented a facility that they have outgrown. The mission started off as the "Austin Mission," targeted for the city and has progressively moved away from the city, with the first location being in the suburb of Round Rock and now located further north in Georgetown, about 30 miles away from downtown Austin. Concern was raised by some as not being too close to existing Orthodox communities by some and others begged that the mission be not so far out in the suburbs. This will need to be resolved soon before the roots can get too deep. Fr John commutes in 400 miles one way biweekly. Fr John also serves Clovis NM and Alpine TX once per month. He is a true road warrior driving great distances to serve these communities.

Montgomery, AL This is being directly served by the Atlanta Deanery. The potential is excellent. It has an MSA of 330,000+ and no English speaking Orthodox Church. We just need to get a priest on the ground or we will lose the opportunity.

St Phillip the Apostle, Tampa, FL The dedication of the people in this mission is remarkable. Membership continues to grow by leaps and bounds. They are very committed to evangelism and being good faithful Orthodox Christians. They had a great outreach effort in the winter. Please see deanery report.

St Matthew the Apostle, Baton Rouge, LA Fr Mark Christian was ordained to the Holy Priesthood during Lent and St. Matthew's is being firmly planted. Attendance and commitment is way up now that they have their own priest and Liturgy every Sunday! Fr Mark is a gifted pastor and is well loved by his people. I anticipate they will grow out of their facility in the next year or so. He is a pleasure to work with and we thank Fr Matthew Jackson for all his help.

St Peter the Apostle, Jupiter FL Fr. Phillip Kontos arrived last year. The mission is presently working hard to find property. The area has a uniquely difficult "church" real estate market. All newer churches in the area struggle to find adequate facilities. The community did find a property that looked good and had potential but wasn't meant to be. We had a mission council building program workshop in January. They are a good dedicated group of people.

Valdosta GA Mission Station We have 20 regulars for the monthly Liturgy and we need to make a full time commitment with a priest to get this mission off the ground. We are trying to supply this from

Jacksonville but we do not have the manpower. I have explored having a deacon led regular Sunday evening Typica service with communion weekly.

El Paso/Las Cruces Area: We have some viable inquires from the area and are waiting for or working towards everything to come together. Fr. Seraphim Hipsh, Area Dean will be working with this outreach.

Russian Orthodox Mission @ St Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL This type/approach to birthing a mission was unchartered territory and it has worked. See deanery report.

St. Cyril of Jersusalem Mission, The Woodlands, TX. – The mission is currently being serviced by deanery clergy while the community is actively looking to purchase property. The mission council has been expanded under the direction of Fr Seraphim Hipsh.

St. Jonah the Wonderworker- Alpine, TX – The mission now renting facilities near the Sul Ross University in Alpine. Fr John Filipovich serves in Alpine once-a-month, but has recently moved to Alpine to facilitate his travel between Georgetown, TX and Clovis, NM. While Fr John is in Alpine, the weekly liturgical cycle will be developed.

Clovis, NM Mission Station- located about an hour east of Lubbock, TX, this mission-station is in the early stages of its development. It has been visited once-per-month by Fr Filipovich with reader services celebrated on the other Sundays.