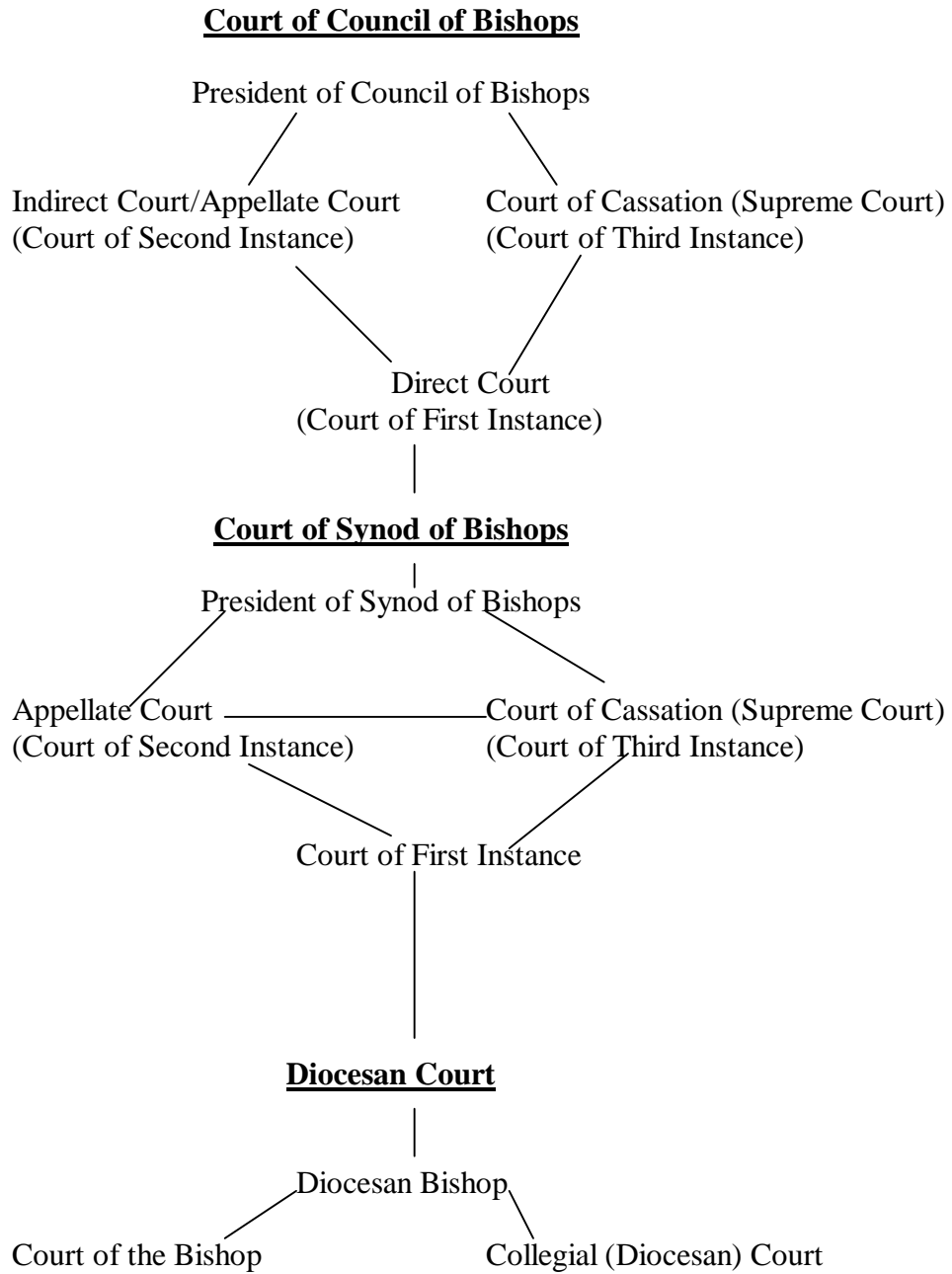


Gerd von Doemming
A.V. Pisarev
Canon Law 526C
May 09, 2009

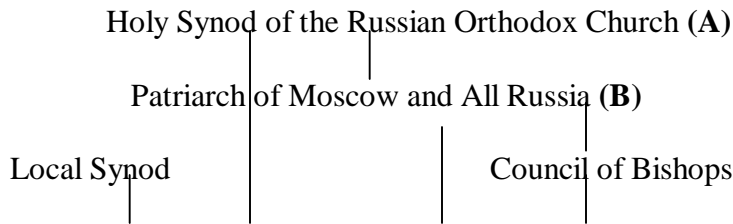
ECCLESIASTICAL COURT SYSTEM OF ROCOR



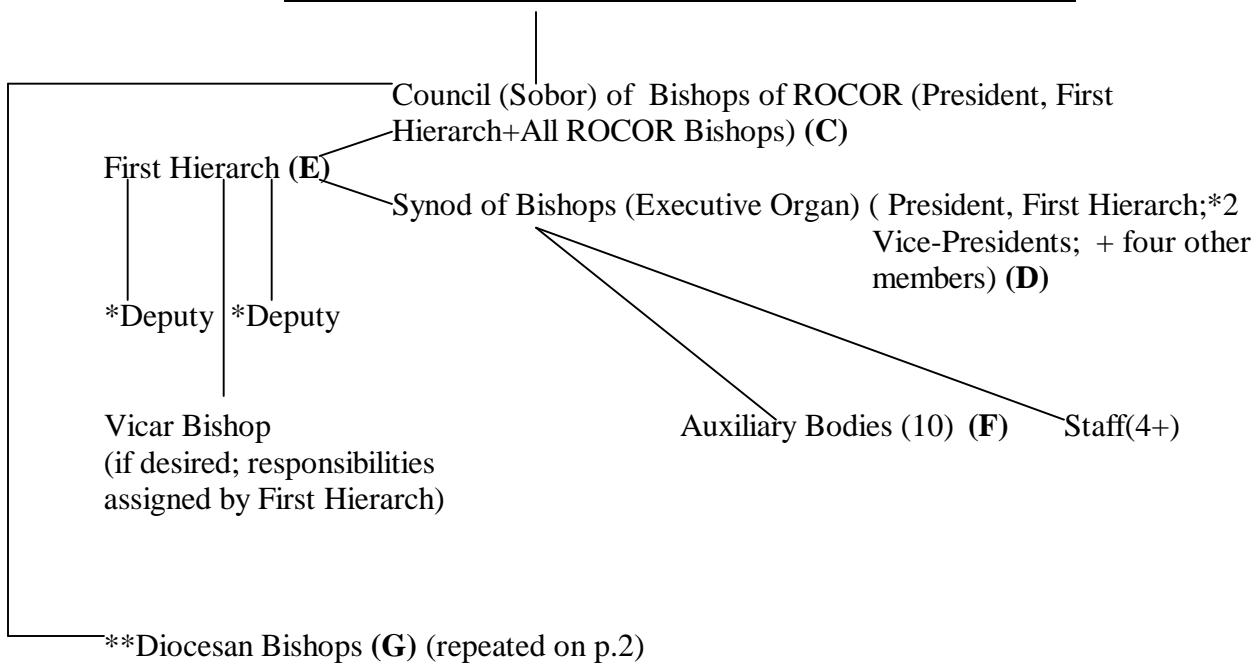
Administrative Structures of ROCOR, Their Hierarchical Order and Functions

Upper Structure

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



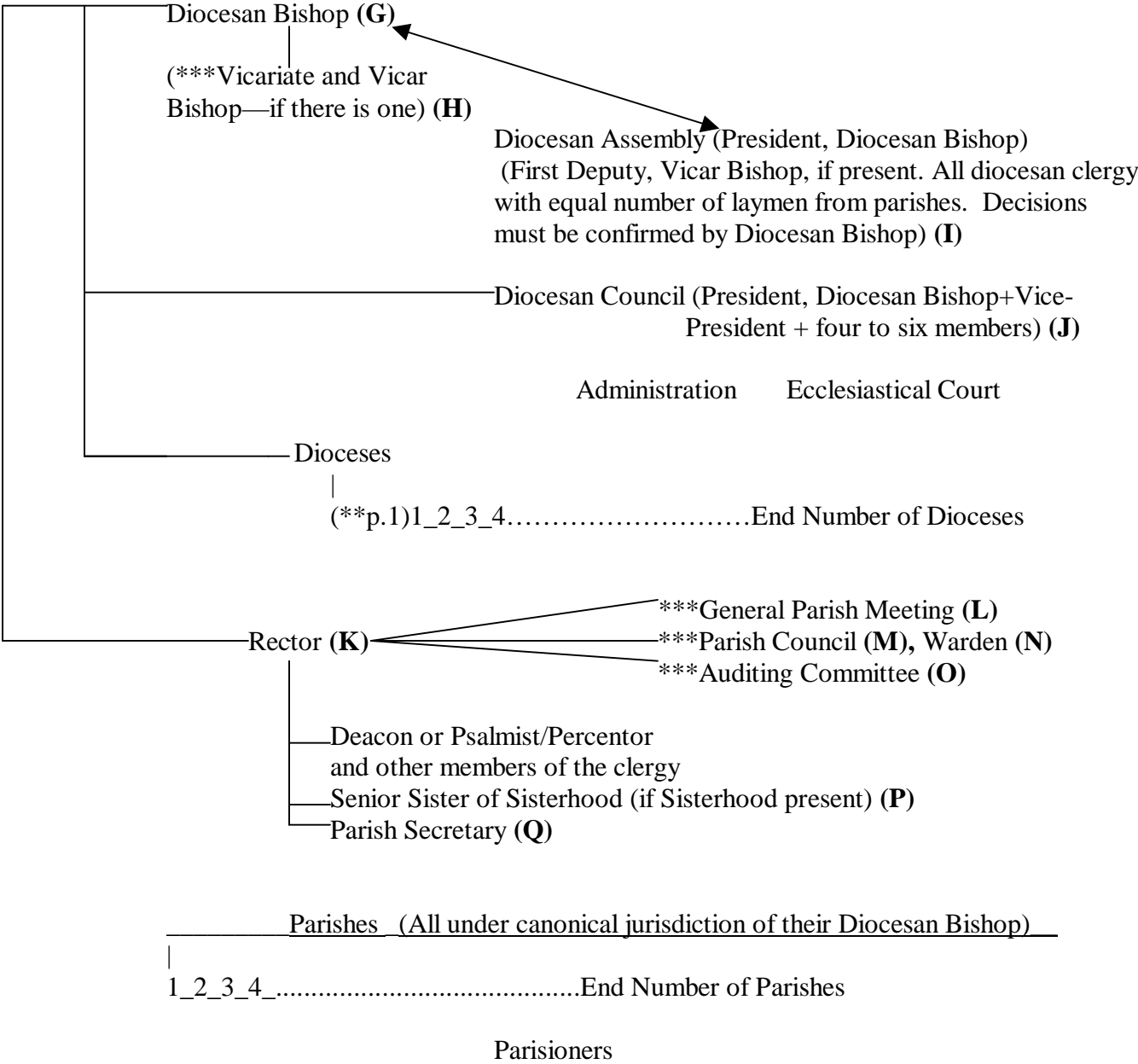
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA



*Two **Deputies** to the **First Hierarch** are also the **Vice-Presidents** of the **Synod of Bishops**

Dioceses of ROCOR. The **First Hierarch is the **Diocesan Bishop** of the diocese in which he resides and of those churches without a diocese. The remaining numbers represent the remaining dioceses as determined by the **Synod of Bishops** and confirmed by the **Council (Sobor) of Bishops**

Lower Structure



***The **Rector** presides over both the **General Parish Meeting** and the **Parish Council**. The **General Meeting** requires minimum of 2/3 of parishioners. The **Parish Council** consists of seven officials of the parish and two-five lay members. The **Auditing Committee** consists of three members elected by the **General Meeting**. No one can be a member of both the **Auditing Committee** and the **Parish Council**. **Vicariates** and a **Vicar Bishop** established by Council (Sobor) of Bishops or Synod of Bishops at Diocesan Bishop's request.

SUMMARY OF FUNCTIONS

(Based on news release “*Act of Canonical Communion*”

http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod.engdocuments/enmat_akt.html and *Sbornik Polozhenii, Ustavov I Zakonov Russkoi Pravoslavnoi Tskerkvi Zagranitsei*, Jordanville Seminary, 2006 in Russian and English

(A) Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church—1) Together with the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, confirms the election of ROCOR’s First Hierarch by ROCOR’s Council (Sobor) of Bishops; **2)** Together with the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, must be in agreement with decisions by ROCOR’s Council (Sobor) of Bishops concerning the establishment or liquidation of ROCOR dioceses; **3)** Passes regulations that extend to ROCOR; **4)** Together with the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, confirms amendments to ROCOR Regulations.

(B) Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia—1) Together with the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, confirms election of ROCOR First Hierarch by ROCOR’s Council (Sobor) of Bishops. **2)** Together with the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, must be in agreement with decisions by ROCOR’s Council (Sobor) of Bishops concerning the establishment or liquidation of ROCOR dioceses; **3)** Together with the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, confirms amendments to ROCOR regulations; **4)** Provides holy myrrh to ROCOR.

(C) Council (Sobor) of Bishops of ROCOR—the highest legislative, administrative, judicial, and controlling body in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. Elects the First Hierarch, his two deputies, and other officials. Speaks for the entire Church Abroad on a wide range of moral, ecclesiological, and other issues. Meets annually or as necessary under chairmanship of the First Hierarch.

(D) Synod of Bishops—As the executive arm of the Council, the Synod meets frequently as needed with the required number of a minimum of six bishops in attendance, including the First Hierarch. The Synod deals with a variety of internal matters such as the appointments of bishops, hearing complaints, fulfilling the role of a court of the first instance for concerns and appeals involving bishops, duties involving the Church’s theological schools, education and publications. In all, the Synod has approximately 30 specific duties and responsibilities for the entire Church.

(E) First Hierarch (Metropolitan rank)—Is the most senior clergyman in ROCOR and is the head of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. In addition to presiding over the Council and Synod and attending to internal Church matters and representing ROCOR in matters involving other autocephalous Orthodox Churches, he directly administers, with

the rights of a Diocesan Bishop, those churches, missions, and monasteries directly subject to him.

(F) Synod's Auxiliary Bodies—reporting to the Synod, ten departments deal with various aspects of education, finances, legal issues, art and architecture, missions, and other areas of Synodal responsibilities.

(G) Diocesan Bishops—as the head of a diocese (i.e., a local church), the Diocesan Bishop is in charge of administering the diocese and its parishes, presiding over a court and rendering judgment, overseeing educational activities, appointing rectors of parishes and other clergy, ordaining clergy and consecrating churches and antimensia, providing guidance to parishes, monasteries and theological schools, and in general tending to the spiritual needs of his diocese—all functions must be performed within the Bishop's diocese only. A Diocesan Bishop has no episcopal rights within the borders of another diocese unless authorized by the local Diocesan Bishop. Diocesan Bishop may not accept clergy or monks from another diocese to serve in his dioceses without canonical release.

(H) Vicariates and Vicar Bishops—Exist in large parishes and communities at request of Diocesan Bishop to either Council or Synod of Bishops. Disposition of Vicar Bishop at discretion of Synod of Bishops with concurrence of Diocesan Bishop. Vicar Bishop closest assistant to Diocesan Bishop and under his supervision. Performs various duties of clergyman, as supervisor of clergy, and other responsibilities as assigned by the Diocesan Bishop. Acts as proxy for Diocesan Bishop as requested. In all matters works under supervision of Diocesan Bishop with exception of direct assignment from Sobor or Synod to perform duties pertaining to the diocese and report directly to one of those two bodies. With this exception, all reports by Vicar Bishop to Sobor or Synod routed through Diocesan Bishop.

(I) Diocesan Assembly—President is Diocesan Bishop with all members of diocesan clergy and equal number of laymen from diocesan parishes. In addition to discussing and resolving all issues submitted by Diocesan Bishop, Assembly focuses on fiscal, educational, real estate, missionary and charitable issues. Assembly decisions come into force and implemented only after confirmation of decisions by Diocesan Bishop.

(J) Diocesan Council—assists the Diocesan Bishop in the administration of the dioceses under his direct control and subject to him. Primary responsibilities are related to safeguarding and spreading the faith, the physical building of the church, opening new parishes, income maintenance and development, festivals, youth, charities, fulfills role of court at diocesan level if one does not already exist—all under supervision and control of the Diocesan Bishop.

(K) Parish Rector—the immediate supervisor of the parish and held responsible to diocesan authorities for its welfare. Presides over annual general parish meeting or

appoints proxy, conducts divine services, instructs parish on rules of Orthodox faith and children in catechism, supervises the execution of all decisions of annual general meeting and of Parish Council.

(L) Annual General Parish Meeting—Rector presides. Vice-President elected by parish laymen. Elects Warden, members of Parish Council, the Auditing Committee, and the Trustees. Examines and ratifies, as appropriate, their reports for expired year. Examines and ratifies the budget for forthcoming year. Amends by-laws, if necessary. Considers other matters as they arise. Reviews voting qualifications of attending members. Minutes submitted to Diocesan Bishop through Rector.

(M) Parish Council—Rector presides. Council oversees church property, clergy residence(s), collection of dues, book-keeping, organizing church choir under direction of experienced director, care of educational and charitable giving, representing parish before civil authorities, maintenance of diocesan and central church administrations as resources permit.

(N) Warden—immediate assistant to Rector regarding management. In charge of safekeeping of church property, of maintaining good order in church during divine services, of overseeing candle sales, and tracking monetary receipts.

(O) Auditing Committee—consists of three members elected by Annual General Meeting. Committee verifies all reports of all monetary accounting submitted by Treasurer to Annual General Parish Meeting and Parish Council. Recommends to annual meeting any desirable changes in method of accounting by Treasurer.

(P) Senior Sister of Sisterhood (if Sisterhood present)—if established in parish, will have Chairman or Senior Sister under supervision of Rector. Duties consist of maintaining cleanliness of church, vestments, and other items in sacristy, organizing charity work of parish, managing luncheons and kitchen.

(Q) Parish Secretary—keeps minutes of all meetings and supervises lists of all parishioners. Prepares reports, under Rector's supervision, to Annual General Meeting and to Parish Council