

The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Right Reverend Tikhon, Bishop of Philadelphia

August 31, 2011

Your Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH,
Your Grace, Bishop NIKON,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
And Faithful of the Diocese of the South,

Christ is in our midst!

On behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to all of you on the falling asleep of our beloved father in Christ, Archbishop DMITRI.

In his life, His Eminence was a great pillar of the Orthodox Faith and in his death, he has surely become a bold intercessor for his children before the Throne of God. His genuine love, his heartfelt prayers and his ceaseless labors undoubtedly mark him as one to whom the Lord will say: *Well done, good and faithful servant: enter into the joy of your Lord.*

As a missionary, he both found the pearl of great price himself and shared the wealth of the Kingdom through his preaching of the Gospel, not only in his own, but in many tongues. As a scholar, he devoted himself to the pursuit of Godly knowledge and offered that knowledge to his flock in the most profitable way for their souls. As a bishop, he offered the wisdom of long years and the prudence born of prayer and reflection. As a Christian, he was an image of his Lord and Savior by word, deed and thought.

May the Lord grant His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI, the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and may all of you, by his death as by his life, be confirmed in the truth that *death has been swallowed by life.*

Asking for your holy prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+TIKHON
Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Secretary of the Holy Synod