

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

May 1, 2011

To the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania:

Christ is in our midst!

Every year, the Orthodox Monastery of St Tikhon of Zadonsk welcomes hundreds of pilgrims and visitors to the Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage. This year, the Pilgrimage will take place on May 27-30, 2011 and will be blessed by the presence of the Myrrh-streaming icon of Saint Anna, the Mother of the Holy Virgin Mary.

While St Tikhon's Monastery is not a diocesan institution, it is nevertheless located within the territory of our diocese and has always been a great blessing for the clergy and faithful of Eastern Pennsylvania. At the same time, the Monastery has always relied on the generous support and sacrificial work of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese for the success and smooth operation of the pilgrimage, for which the Monastery Brotherhood offers its sincere thanks.

The Pilgrimage has always been understood to be a source of income for the Monastery. As the Monastery prepares for this year's Pilgrimage, I would like to highlight some of the financial realities that face the Monastery:

- 1) Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2010, food sales, candle sales and general donations generated a gross income of \$9,391.31.
- 2) Over the same weekend, the expenses added up to \$8,919.23, which includes the amount spent on food, supplies and equipment (including tents and portable facilities), yielding a net income of **\$472.08**.
- 3) Even if the income from St Tikhon's Bookstore for that period is added in, the net income for the entire weekend does not even cover one month's payment of the mortgage on the Monastery Bookstore.

A Monastery is intended to be a place of prayer and repentance, a place for healing and worship, not only for the monastics, but for all those who are "weary and heavy laden." Nevertheless, the financial realities of running an institution require the prayers, help and financial support of the entire Church. For this reason, I am asking the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania to continue its support of the Monastery in the following ways.

144 St. Tikhon's Road, Waymart, PA 18472

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Chancellor: Very Reverend John Kowalczyk Telephone: 570.876.1241 Mobile: 570.561.8696

First, this year the monastery will no longer be relying on our help for the food preparation, but rather bringing in outside vendors. Rather, we would ask that the faithful of our diocese consider other ways of offering their talents, not only during the Pilgrimage weekend but also in the weeks leading up to it and in the days following. A list of such ways that we can help is attached.

I would also like to ask the parishes of my diocese to contribute \$200 towards the expenses of the Pilgrimage. Please forward these donations to the Diocesan Center, 144 St Tikhon's Road, Waymart, PA, 18472.

Finally, I would like all of us in the diocese to reflect on the importance of the monastic life, which, although it may be lived in a more intense manner within a monastery, is a life that all Orthodox Christians are called to lead. May this year's Pilgrimage be an opportunity for all of us to take some time away from the cares of this world and focus for a time on the reality of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink. It begins with a plus sign (+) followed by the name 'Tikhon' written in a cursive, flowing script.

+TIKHON
Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS TO SUPPORT THE MONASTERY AND SEMINARY

Diocesan Center

- Cleaning of the grounds (trash pick up, leaf raking, lawn mowing)
- Planting of flowers (later in May)
- Interior Cleaning
 - Garage
 - Windows

Monastery Cemetery

- Trash to be picked up
- Piles of dirt to be removed
- Graves to be filed in and seeded (end of May)

Monastery General

- Groundskeeping
- Painting?
- Other work?

Seminary

- Trash to be picked up
- Orphanage basement to be cleaned out
- Painting
- Interior work

All of the above can be done at any time that is convenient to those who are volunteering. At the same time, there are specific times when help would particularly be appreciated

Work week (May 23-26)

Friday May 27

Saturday May 28

Monday May 30

- Candle Sales 9 am – 4 pm

- Clean up 4-8 pm

Tuesday May 31

- Clean up 10 am-4 pm

Financial Needs

Tents: \$2000

Portable Facilities: \$1500

Flowers: \$500