

The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Right Reverend Melchisedek, Bishop of Pittsburgh, *Locum Tenens*  
The Right Rev. Mark, Bishop of Baltimore, Administrator

January 10, 2014

Dear Fathers and Faithful Members of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Christ is in or midst!

According to His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek, at our Diocesan Council meeting held in Philadelphia, the Holy Synod presented us with the names of two vetted candidates, one of whom declined, which gave us one candidate, His Grace, Bishop Mark.

Bishop Mark has been our Administrator for over one year and a bishop for nine years. He has faithfully administered the life of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania under the guidance of Bishop Melchisedek and he has visited most of our parishes. He has distributed a timely monthly newsletter and has been a loving and caring bishop having the best interests of each parish in his heart.

The Episcopal Search Committee presented three questions to His Grace, Bishop Mark, a vetted candidate for the vacant see of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Question No. 1: *Describe your knowledge or preconceptions of the DOEPA.***

**Question No. 2: *Describe your spiritual life.***

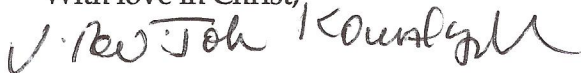
**Question No. 3: *Describe your administrative and organizational experience.***

His Grace, Bishop Mark, responded to the Search Committee, and as the Chairman of the Episcopal Search Committee, I sent the responses out on December 20, 2013. In my letter to our active clergymen or council chairs, I asked them to properly distribute the responses to their faithful. If you have not seen those responses, please ask your parish priest or council chair for a copy. We will have the responses to the questions available on Friday in Bethlehem on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Episcopal Search Committee, consisting of four members of the clergy, a layperson, and myself as the moderator, will be discussing with His Grace, Bishop Mark his responses this Wednesday at the Diocesan Center, and the results will be presented to you at the Friday evening special meeting.

Asking for your prayers and guidance as we forge ahead in developing the life of our diocese and, with God's will, nominating the chief shepherd for the vacant see of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.

With love in Christ,



V. Rev. John Kowalczyk, Chancellor  
Chair of the Episcopal Search Committee