



*The Orthodox Church in America*  
*DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA*  
*The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia*

July 29, 2023

Dear beloved clergy and faithful,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be. By the grace of God and with the assistance of our clergy, Diocesan faithful and faithful from outside the Diocese we enjoyed a blessed week at our summer camp program. Through the sacrificial offering of time, talents and donations our youth enjoyed a wonderful time of prayer, fellowship, Christian education, arts and crafts and many various activities.

We are grateful to all who participated in preparation, scheduling, education, food preparation, and overseeing and assisting with the many aspects of providing our Orthodox Youth with a quality program. The financial support received covered the costs for numerous children, especially those with multiple siblings who otherwise would not been able to attend. We received many donations from parishes and individuals to sponsor our Diocesan Youth program. The cost for just the food for campers and staff exceeded \$14,000. We also appreciate the donation of food from our parishes. Through your generosity, last year and this year we had many first time campers.

We were blessed to have many talented and gifted adults who offered of themselves both before camp, during the week of camp and breaking things down. We are working to provide a debriefing for all who participated for their valuable feedback. There is always room for improvement, new ideas and new activities.

Once again we are blessed to partner with St Tikhon's Seminary and St. Tikhon's Monastery for access and use of their facilities and participation. Given the wonderful response this year, we will likely see registration in the coming year closing early.

Please encourage your youth to attend and your adults to volunteer to serve Christ and His Holy Church in the coming years!

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine