



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

August 28, 2015  
No. 1547

The Very Rev. John Kowalczyk  
St. Michael Orthodox Church  
305 Walnut Street  
Jermyn, PA18433

Dear Father John,

Christ is in our midst!

On behalf of the entire Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, I wish to extend our most sincere thanks to you for your many years of service to our Diocese, both as Secretary and Treasurer and then as Chancellor, covering a span of 29 years. Your guidance and leadership has enabled our Diocese to grow spiritually and financially.

Given the many areas of ministry and service that you have eagerly and tirelessly embraced, i.e., teaching at St. Tikhon's Seminary, secretary for OCPM, your work at SCI Waymart, in addition to your primary responsibilities as pastor at St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, it is reasonable to accept your resignation effective September 01, 2015. I certainly understand your desire to have more time to spend with your parish duties, your role in prison ministry, and teaching at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Additionally, this will allow us to begin healthy rotation of Diocesan Officers as an example to our parishes and reduce clergy burnout from having simply too many things on their plate.

May our Lord continue to bless you and your wonderful family as you continue to serve our Holy Orthodox Church both in your community, in the Diocese, and in the Orthodox Church in America.

*Axios!*

With my archpastoral blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Bp Mark

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
CC: Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the OCA; Fr. Martin Browne