



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

October 20, 2017

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! We are pleased to announce that 1.93 acres of the former Children's Home has been transferred to the Diocese. The remaining 5 or so acres, the Children's Home and the other two houses are now merged with the Monastery. As there has been much confusion over what was being done, I will provide some background.

The Seminary, Monastery and Diocese are all separate entities. Around 1939, the Orphanage was created as a fourth entity. The Orphanage functioned until the early 1970's and closed, but no decision was made to dissolve the Orphanage Corporation. The monastery, seminary and Diocese all made use of the property, but none of us owned it. The Orphanage Board did not seem to be involved in authorizing usage of the property, which certainly raised liability issues. Metropolitan Theodosius gave permission in 1980 for the Diocese to build its Diocesan Offices and residence on the Orphanage property and Metropolitan Herman later gave permission to two other people to build houses on the Children's Home property.

After a Special Investigation was commissioned around 2005, it was decided that the property be formally divided. Given the litigious age in which we live, there needed to be clear boundaries or firewalls between our various entities and agreements need to be formally executed. Metropolitan Tikhon, chaired the initial meetings when the Orphanage Board was reconstituted to address the property subdivision. At the time he was your Bishop, he and the Diocesan Council wished to move the Diocesan Offices and residence to Philadelphia once a property deed was acquired.

After all most 9 years of legal work and approval of the Assistant Attorney General, we finally have the properties officially divided and deeds will be recorded Monday for the Monastery and for the Diocese. Abbot Sergius said he would forward an offer next week on our property, but any sale to the Monastery would require the approval of the Assistant Attorney General. We were previously told she would not do so.

At this point, I have already met with four realtors and intend to list the property next week. If the offer from the Monastery is acceptable, we will insert a caveat into our listing, specifically stating that should the Monastery procure approval to purchase the property, we have the right to remove the listing and enter into a private sales agreement. Our first choice would be for the Monastery to purchase the property.

At our Diocesan Assembly in January authorization was given our Diocesan Council to move forward with the sale of the property when we were able to do so and purchase another property in closer proximity to our parishes.

Yours in Christ,

*+ Mark*

+ Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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