



June 20, 2017

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PUBLISHED IN THE PARISH BULLETIN  
AND THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE JUNE 21 – JULY 10**

*Downsizing our Diocesan Center for our Transition*

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! Hopefully, the Monastery and the Diocese will formally divide the former St Tikhon's Orphanage Property in the next few weeks, approximately 7 acres, adjacent to St. Tikhon's Monastery property, and we will receive title to 1.93 acres of the land on which our Diocesan Center is located. The other land and buildings will be merged with the monastery and become their property. As initiated by Metropolitan Tikhon, when he was your Diocesan Bishop and discussed and approved at our Diocesan Assembly in January, our Diocesan Council will begin marketing the property to allow us to move our Diocesan Center closer to our parishes. Part of preparing the Diocesan Center for listing and marketing is to make it as presentable as possible. In doing so, we need to remove excess furnishings and simultaneously downsize for the transition to a new Diocesan Center which will likely be smaller.

Though, we intend to keep and use as much as we can, there may be some things we are simply unable to keep. If there is anything your parish or parishioners have donated that you would want back (if we choose to donate or liquidate it) please call the Diocesan Center to inquire about your specific item(s) no later than July 10<sup>th</sup>. Be as specific as possible and we will create a list of items not to be liquidated.

We ask your prayers as we seek to finalize the dissolution of the Orphanage Property (which has been closed for nearly 50 years) and begin the process of marketing the current Diocesan Center and search for an affordable and appropriate property to use as a Diocesan Center. Be assured, the Orphanage Board composed of His Beatitude; myself; Archimandrite Sergius, Abbott of St Tikhon's monastery; Fr John Jillions, Chancellor of the OCA; Fr. Stephen Voytovich, Dean of the seminary; David Yeosock, Judge Ray Lanier, OCA legal counsel; attorney Greg Nescott, Fr Daniel Donlick and Fr John Perich have worked this solution out together. In the process Judge Ray Lanier represented the OCA; attorney John Krisa represented the Orphanage Board; attorney John Petorak represented the Monastery and Brett Woodburn represented the Diocese. The dissolution of the Orphanage Property between the two entities was submitted by all parties to the state of Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and has received the approval of the Assistant Attorney General, Mary Kinney.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

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