



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

November 27, 2019

Dear Rev. Fathers, Diocesan Council Members, and Department Chairs,

The 56th Diocesan Assembly will be held on Thursday and Friday, **January 23 and 24, 2020** at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church, in Harrisburg, PA. All our active clergy, delegates and department chairs are required to attend this Assembly. Registration will begin on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. followed by the formal opening of the Assembly at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. and Great Vespers at 6:30 p.m. The agenda is attached and will also be posted on our website ([www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org)).

All those attending may make their reservations at the Candlewood Suites located at 504 N. Mountain Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Their phone number is (717) 652-7800. **They are holding a Block of Rooms with the group code: COC at \$66.00 (single) \$76.00 (double). Reservations must be made by January 1st to get that rate.** Be sure to mention the group code COC when booking your room. We cannot guarantee the room rates after that date.

The registration fee is \$50.00 for each clergy, each lay delegate and each observer, which covers our planning costs, copying, and meals. Please send your **Document of Certification** for your Delegates and Observers directly to the Diocesan Chancery. Checks should be made payable to OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Please complete the attached Document of Certification for your Lay Delegate for the 56th Diocesan Assembly and submit it to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible, but no later than December 21, 2019. Assembly observers are welcome to attend with the blessing of the parish priest. **The Document of Certification for Observers** should also be completed, signed and returned to the Diocesan Chancery no later than December 21, 2019.

We ask that the Deans, Treasurer, Auditors, Metropolitan Council Representatives, Finance Committee, Diocesan Council Secretary, Liturgical Life Committee, Missions, Office of Young Adult Activities, Office of Church School Programs and Curriculum, Health Insurance, and the Communications Department prepare their reports and forward them to the Diocesan Chancery electronically ([dioceseoepa@gmail.com](mailto:dioceseoepa@gmail.com)) no later than December 10, 2019 for posting on the Diocesan Website.

Please remember that in order to participate in the Assembly meetings parishes must be current with their monthly diocesan support.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving, May you enjoy a Joyous Nativity and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

Yours unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

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

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cc: V. Rev. Martin Browne, Chancellor

Enclosures: Proposed Agenda  
Document of Certification for Lay Delegate  
Document of Certification for Observers