



DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia • Orthodox Church in America

In 2024, the Diocesan Council met in regular session three times:

- May 8th, 2024
- September 17th, 2024
- November 22nd, 2024

The Diocesan Council is chaired by His Eminence, Archbishop MARK. Input from Council members is encouraged, solicited and considered; however, His Eminence has the final say in all proceedings and decisions. The purpose and function of the Council is to support Vladyka and share ideas, feedback, opinions and recommendations for his considerations. Our discussions are facilitated by the archbishop and our Diocesan Chancellor, the Very Rev'd Raymond Martin Browne.

Each meeting began with an archpastoral review of inter-meeting activity, important news in the diocese and national Church, and other notable issues and events. The chancellor, treasurer, deans and auditors also presented their reports, and the Council received updates on the activities of the Metropolitan Council and Office of Pastoral Life. A summary of these department reports is included in the documentation for this Annual Diocesan Assembly.

Topics of focus for the 2024 Diocesan Council included:

- Clergy aging, retirement and other pastoral changes
- The St. Tikhon's Summer Camp and diocesan teen retreats
- The closing of Holy Resurrection Cathedral, distribution of its holy objects, transfer of the cemetery and sale of the property
- The 2025 diocesan budget
- The diaconal formation program at St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Seminarian support
- Charitable giving, including gifts to retired clergy and matushki in our diocese
- The OCA pension plan
- Clergy continuing education and retreats
- Clergy compensation
- Clergy appreciation and support, including clergy peer groups and other types of support for clergy and matushki
- The growth and development of the Heavenly Host program
- The establishment of Aorist Press, a new liturgical publishing house based in our diocese
- The establishment of the Brotherhood of St. Alexis Toth for young men and discussion of establishing a similar group for young women

Diocesan Council minutes are available on the diocesan website, under the "Resources" tab. You may also contact the diocese directly via email at dioceseoepa@gmail.com. or via telephone at 484-281-3406.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Daria Cortese', written in a cursive style.

Daria Cortése
Diocesan Council Secretary