



Епархія Чикагская и Средне-Американская
Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей

Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

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*Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me,
that they may be one, as We are. (John 17:11)*

In the God-protected city of Des Plaines, under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Peter of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America, the triennial Diocesan Assembly convened from June 12 to June 16, 2018.

The assembly resolves:

- ◆ With gratitude to Fr. Josiah Trenham for his lecture about his approach to catechism at St. Andrew Antiochian parish in Riverside, CA, we are inspired to provide a more thorough catechism of new members and lifelong catechism for ourselves, both clergy and laity. We must strive to deepen our faith in pursuit of holiness. Having more fully ‘put on Christ,’ we will be better equipped to fulfill Christ’s command to teach all nations, bringing them the healing Grace He has so generously bestowed upon us.
- ◆ We lament the drastic decline in faith within our society and the resulting societal costs: depression, addiction, suicide and a loss of a clear moral compass. These problems most acutely affect our youth, the future leaders of the Church. We rededicate ourselves to support, nurture and pray for these valuable, but often under-appreciated, members of our parishes.
- ◆ To that end, we call on the clergy of our diocese to better educate themselves on the growing problems of addiction and suicide. The Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America will create continuing education programs on these and other topics of concern. The diocese will establish guidelines for responding to mental health issues to aid the clergy.
- ◆ We urge parishes to consciously nurture their youngest members so that they receive from their elders the vital spark of faith which will help to light their path through this increasingly dark world in which we live. We ask families to develop the ‘first Church’, the home, so that all family members pray daily at home, read Holy Scripture and spiritual books, and devote themselves to good works.
- ◆ We note the spiritual significance of the Assembly gathering in the week after the Feast of All Saints of Russia and concluding with the diocesan celebration of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, in the 100th year anniversary of the start of the godless persecution in Russia and of the martyrdom of the Royal Family, who are preeminent examples of pious family life. We appeal to the faithful of the diocese to ask for their continued intercessions on our behalf before the Throne of God!
- ◆ As stewards of the gifts of God, we understand that tithes and alms are a concrete expression of our love for God. It is our prayer that the faithful will more fervently support the financial needs of their parishes, so that they may more diligently fulfill their financial obligations to the diocese in a more timely manner.
- ◆ We know that Our Savior is “the Way, the Truth and Life.” Lamentably, the world only offers us confusion, deception, and death. Christ’s Church is indeed a spiritual hospital, providing a healing and a listening presence in the world. By the prayers of the Royal Family and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, may God help our diocese to fulfill our high calling.