



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

December 19, 2008

Protocol 08-32

The Pious Clergy,
The Devoted Members of the Metropolis Council,
The Esteemed Parish Councils,
The Members of the Metropolis Ladies Philoptochos, and
All the Pious Members of
the Holy Metropolis of Denver

Beloved in the Lord,

I am pleased to communicate with you at this time regarding our forthcoming "Local Clergy-Laity Assembly," the new term used in the 2009 Uniform Parish Regulations, and the Metropolis Philoptochos Conference. These will take place concurrently in Dallas, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, 2009.

Preceding the Local Assembly a clergy retreat will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 13 and 14, 2009.

All the faithful members from every parish of the Metropolis are invited and encouraged to be in Dallas and to attend the workshops that will be presented.

The general schedule will be as follows:

- a. Friday, May 15, 2009
 - Opening Address (morning)
 - Workshops (late morning and afternoon)
 - Banquet (evening)
- b. Saturday, May 16, 2009
 - Workshops (morning and afternoon)
 - Plenary Session and Election of New Metropolis Council (morning)
 - Plenary Session (late afternoon)
 - Great Vespers (evening)
- c. Sunday, May 17, 2009
 - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (morning)
 - Brunch (midday)

The Local Assembly is concerned with matters affecting the spiritual life and growth of the parishes and the faithful within the Metropolis. It deals with matters of common concern including the uniform governance of the Parishes, educational programs, financial programs, and philanthropic concerns, as well as with the better organization and effectiveness of the parishes. The Local Assembly also submits proposals and recommendations for the next Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress which will take place in 2010.

Each parish is allotted four *official delegates*:

- a. The parish Priest
- b. The parish council president (or in his absence the vice president or other parish council member so designated)
- c. Two members of the parish elected by the Parish General Assembly.

These delegates are entitled to participate in the committee meetings and the plenary session and have one vote each.

As I mentioned previously, however, all the faithful of the Metropolis are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in the workshops being presented. Because of our vast geographical size, our parishes are widely-scattered throughout this region and there is a great spiritual danger in thinking that we are isolated and not connected to one another, to the Church in America, and to the Body of Christ, the worldwide Orthodox Church.

Please note that **every clergyman** of the Metropolis — priests and deacons, pastors and assistant clergy — is expected to attend the retreat and the Local Assembly. Any exceptions must be addressed to me personally. I also ask that they be present for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, if a supply priest is available to fill in for your priest on that Sunday.

Every parish is obligated to defray all expenses — travel, lodging, and registration — for *each* full-time clergyman assigned to the parish, both pastors and assistant clergy.

Parishes may decide whether to compensate delegates for some of their expenses, otherwise these are customarily paid by the individuals themselves out of their love for the Orthodox Church and its vital work.

Registration forms and instructions will soon be available online as .pdf files. They may be downloaded at www.denver.goarch.org/assembly.

Much more information about the details of the Assembly and the workshops will soon be forthcoming from the organizing committee.

May our Lord's rich blessings be upon each one of you as we prepare to enter the new Year of Salvation 2009.

With Paternal Blessings,



✠ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

cc: Metropolis Council Members
Parish Councils
Philoptochos Chapters
All Parish Bulletins and Newsletters

TO BE PRINTED IN ALL PARISH BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS