



*Office of the Metropolitan*

*312 Garfield Street*

*Johnstown, PA 15906*

Protocol N. 2/2020

January 16, 2020

Christ is in Our Midst!

Dear Reverend Fathers:

With the Lenten Triodion period beginning soon, I wish to inform you that plans have been finalized for our Annual Diocesan Lenten Retreats sponsored by the ACRY which will take place during the months of March April at the following locations:

Central Region - Saturday March 28, 2020 - St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA

Eastern Region - Saturday April 4, 2020 - St. Francis Center For Renewal, Bethlehem, PA

Western Region - Saturday April 4, 2020 - St. Alexis Orthodox Church, Battleground, IN

I am pleased that my schedule will allow me to participate in the Central Regional Retreat. I look forward to this opportunity to spend time with the clergy and faithful of the Diocese.

I am pleased, as well, that for the fourth year, in the spirit of Pan-Orthodox cooperation, we are jointly sponsoring the Eastern Region Retreat with the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA.

With this letter I ask that you and your parish faithful make every effort to attend the Retreat at the most convenient location. Please take time to actively promote these Retreats in your parish, stressing to your parishioners the spiritual benefits that come from spending time in retreat, even if only for a day. It is vitally important, as well, that our youth are in attendance, as a great program has been planned for them. Parishes and/or deaneries are encouraged to arrange group transportation.

To assist with the promotion of the Retreats, I ask that you do the following:

1. Please post the **enclosed promotional flier** which contains information on the three Regional Retreats on your parish's bulletin board and include it as an insert in your parish bulletin within the next two weeks. Follow-up announcements should be made from the ambon and included in your weekly bulletin.
2. Please return the attached **Parish Retreat Reservation Form** for the Eastern and Central Regional Retreats by the stated registration deadline so that the local retreat committee members have adequate time to prepare. **Please make note of the firm deadline for the Eastern Retreat.**

Grateful for your anticipated assistance in promoting the upcoming Lenten Retreats, and bestowing my Archpastoral Blessing, I remain,

Working in His Vineyard,

*+ Metropolitan Gregory*

+ Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa