

The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Right Reverend Tikhon, Bishop of Philadelphia

September 27, 2009

Rev. Victor Gorodenchuk
St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral
8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Dear Father Victor and Faithful Parishioners,

Christ is in our midst!

This year, St Stephen's Cathedral is celebrating the historical landmark of its 35th Anniversary, which is a significant event not only in the life of the Cathedral community, but for the entire Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. As your Bishop, I am pleased to celebrate this joyous event with you and to acknowledge the good work of the faithful community of my Diocesan See.

Just as the local Church building stands as the physical and spiritual center of the parish community, so the Diocesan Cathedral stands as the physical and spiritual center of the Diocesan community. But, as every Orthodox Christian knows, the sacred spaces that we inhabit only have meaning when they serve for the spiritual growth and edification of the people of God.

It is the people of God of St Stephen's Cathedral, visibly reflected in this Parish Directory, who give personal expression to the vibrant life of this community. Every person is created in the image and likeness of Christ and has eternal value in His eyes. It is our responsibility to live with one another with the same respect and love for one another, with the same understanding of the holiness of our neighbor.

For thirty-five years, the persons and families within this directory have worked together for the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I am certain that this sacred work will continue for many more years. May all of you continue to grow in your love for one another and may this Cathedral community continue to grow in holiness, in faith and in love for the glory of God.

The blessings of the Lord be upon you as you celebrate your 35th anniversary and may His light continue to illumine you in all things.

Assuring you of my blessings and prayers, I remain,

With love in Christ,



+TIKHON

Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania