

AN ACTION STATEMENT FOR THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

We, the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, resolve:

- To preserve at all times the kingdom of heaven as the constant reality in all that we do, whether in our personal and family lives, in our parish and deanery activities, and within the larger community.
- To implement the Lord's command to preach the Gospel to all the ends of the world by actively living our Orthodox Faith, without shame, before others and boldly sharing with them, without arrogance and with humility, the truth of Holy Orthodoxy.
- To increase the liturgical life of our parishes: for the clergy, by offering more divine services, particularly services during the week and at times when they have not hitherto been served; for the faithful, by requesting such services from their priests and by attending those services, not out of compulsion but out of love for Christ and the sanctification offered through those services.
- To engage our local community by inviting them to our divine services, lectures and social activities, and by freely offering them hospitality in word, in deed and in thought.
- To dedicate ourselves to concrete acts of mercy through volunteering in local soup kitchens and homeless shelters, not only on a personal level, but through the energizing of our own parish and further, by yoking parish to parish to better increase these acts of mercy.
- To strengthen the bond of unity between clergy and faithful, knowing that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and our communication one with another should not be based on the passions that darken us, but on the love of Jesus Christ.
- To refuse to be ensnared by the snares of the enemy and of the world by becoming despondent, lazy, judgmental or bitter but rather to do all things, in our parish life, in our family life and in our personal life, for the glory of God and for the sake of our salvation, with joy in our hearts, with humility in our actions and with hope for eternal salvation in the heavenly kingdom.