

**55th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest
Lansing, IL
October 11, 2016**

Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst!

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Paul, the 55th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2016. It will be hosted by Archangel Michael Church in Lansing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Meetings and meals will be held in the Social Center, a beautiful, church-owned banquet facility. The address is 1500 186th Street, Lansing, Illinois.

All the most up-to-date information and assembly materials may be found on the Web at <http://domoca.org/assembly.html>.

Parish Report Form

As we do every year, we ask that all parishes prepare an Annual Parish Report. The report form can also be downloaded from the Assembly webpage. Simply fill it out in your word processor and send it back in the same format. Last year's reports are available for download here: <http://domoca.org/2015reports.html>. Please note that, in 2017, parishes will be assessed based on their Supporting Membership Count as of September 1, 2016 as reported on this form; the Budget presented at this Assembly will be prepared accordingly. This form is required for cathedrals, parishes, and missions. A parish must include information and numbers for any chapel which has it as its mother parish.

Please return your completed form to me electronically by Thursday, September 1.

Registration

The composition of delegates from each parish is made up of the *assigned* priests and deacons, and an equal number of lay delegates. One lay delegate is allowed from each

55th Assembly Welcome Letter
October 11, 2016
Page 2

parish not having an assigned priest. Lay delegates are elected by a parish meeting or parish council (consult parish bylaws). Others may attend as observers. Further information may be found in the OCA Statute, Article 9, The Diocesan Assembly:
<http://oca.org/statute/article-ix>

Please note that *attached* and *retired* clergy may attend without the right to a vote (and without an equal number of lay delegates). Rectors, please consult the Parish Directory on the OCA website if you are uncertain of a priest's or deacon's status, and contact His Grace, Bishop Paul, if you believe it to be in error.

The registration fee schedule for this year's assembly is as follows:

\$100.00 per delegate or observer

Please return the Registration Form and payment by Thursday, September 1.

Travel

Please arrange to arrive on the evening of Monday, October 10. If flying, please use Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW). There is no shuttle service available between the airport and the hotel. Please plan to take a taxi or arrange for someone who is driving to pick you up. If possible, return flights should be scheduled for no earlier than 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11.

Hotel

Accommodations for the Monday night have been procured at the Comfort Suites Lansing, 2235 West 173rd Street, Lansing, Illinois, at a rate of \$95.00. Reservations need to be booked by Thursday, September 15. After this date there are no guarantees with regard to rooms and/or a discounted rate. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling (708) 418-3337, making sure to inform them that you are part of the Diocese of the Midwest group.

Schedule

All scheduled activities will take place at the St. Michael Social Center except as noted.

55th Assembly Welcome Letter
October 11, 2016
Page 3

Monday, October 10

12:00 pm - Bishop's Council Lunch Meeting – Bohemian Joe's
5:00 pm - Diocesan Council Dinner Meeting – Bohemian Joe's
5:00 pm - Registration Open – Comfort Suites
10:00 pm - Registration Closed – Comfort Suites

Tuesday, October 11

7:00 am - Divine Liturgy – Archangel Michael Church
8:30 am - Breakfast
8:30 am - Registration Open
9:30 am - Plenary Session I
1:00 pm - Lunch
2:00 pm - Plenary Session II
5:00 pm - Closing Prayers & Installation

Materials

Each parish will receive a hardcopy mailing containing this letter, a letter about the **Standard Parish Bylaws Revision**, and a letter about the **Third Phase of PSP Implementation**. All other materials—minutes, reports, and forms—pertaining to the Diocesan Assembly will be posted to <http://domoca.org/assembly.html> as they become available. In order to save costs and trees, printouts will not be passed out at the Assembly. All delegates are asked to review these materials online in advance, and print their own hard copies if necessary.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to call me in the Chancery Office at 312-202-0420 or by email at chancery@domoca.org.

Yours in Christ,



Philip Sokolov
Bishop's Secretary