

**56th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest
Broadview Heights, OH
October 12, 2017**

Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst!

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Paul, the 56th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2017. It will be hosted by Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights in the Greater Cleveland area. Meetings and meals will be held in the Woodside Center, a beautiful, church-owned banquet facility. The address is 5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio.

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

Special Components of This Year's Assembly

In addition to the usual work of the Assembly, a few special items are planned for this year's gathering of the Diocese:

- a wine and cheese meet-and-greet reception on the eve of the Assembly
- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- special presentations on the topic of Christian Stewardship
- consideration of revised Diocesan Bylaws

More information on the last two components will be available soon.

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/2016reports.html>. Please note that, in 2018, parishes will be assessed based on their Supporting Membership Count as of September 1, 2017 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 Friday, September 15.

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 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:

\$125.00 per delegate or observer

Please send the form and payment to St. Michael's by Friday, September 15.

Hotel

Accommodations for Wednesday night have been procured at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Cleveland South, 5300 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio, at a rate of \$89.00. Reservations need to be booked by Wednesday, September 20. After this date there are no guarantees with regard to rooms or a discounted rate. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling (866) 840-0582, making sure to inform them that you are part of the Diocese of the Midwest group.

Travel

Please arrange to arrive on the evening of Wednesday, October 11. If flying, please use Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE). You may take the hotel's shuttle from the airport to the hotel. Our hosts at Archangel Michael's will arrange ground transportation to and from the church for those who indicate this need on the Registration Form. If possible, return flights should be scheduled for no earlier than 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 12.

Schedule

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

Wednesday, October 11

- 9:00 am - Bishop's Council Meeting
- 1:00 pm - Diocesan Council Lunch Meeting
- 5:00 pm - Registration Open – Crowne Plaza
- 6:00 pm - Wine and Cheese Reception – Crowne Plaza
- 10:00 pm - Registration Closed – Crowne Plaza

Thursday, October 12

- 7:00 am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Archangel Michael Church
- 9:00 am - Breakfast
- 9:00 am - Registration Open
- 10:00 am - Plenary Session I**
- 12:30 pm - Lunch
- 1:30 pm - Plenary Session II**
- 5:00 pm - Closing Prayers & Installation

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 Mary Jane Lucak at the Woodside Center at (440) 526-9696, or me in the Chancery Office at 312-202-0420 or by email at chancery@domoca.org.

Yours in Christ,



Philip Sokolov
Bishop's Secretary