

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate



May 15, 2018

05/ 012

His Grace PAUL  
Bishop of Chicago and the  
Diocese of the Midwest  
927 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL. 60610

Your Grace, Reverend Fathers and Deacons of the Diocese of the Midwest,

Christ is risen.

It was an honor to be again in the Diocese of the Midwest, and my home parish of St Peter and Paul with Your Grace and the brotherhood of the diocese. It was a spiritual joy to worship with you at the Divine Liturgy and the other services, especially in the presence of the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God. Please accept my sincere gratitude for Your Grace's invitation and for the hospitality received during my visit.

The opportunity to speak to you and share the outlines of the *Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church* was one that I greatly appreciated, and I am grateful for the feedback which you provided during the sessions, over meals, and privately. The opportunity to speak directly with you, the shepherds in the field, is of great importance to our work as the Orthodox Church in America. As you reflect on the convocation, should you have further comment I am very happy to receive them, and I invite you to send them to me through Archdeacon Joseph at [jmatusiak@oca.org](mailto:jmatusiak@oca.org).

Finally, please accept my gratitude for the great work you are doing to expand the mission of the Orthodox Church in America in the Diocese of the Midwest. We cannot, and should, not shy away from the fact that we have many challenges facing us today. But I left the convocation last week heartened by the talent and the good works being done in the Diocese of the Midwest.

May God continue to bless, strengthen and preserve each of you and your families as you continue in your ministry to Christ and His Church.

Yours in the risen Lord,

+TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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