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ORTHODOX BISHOP OF WESTERN AMERICA
ПРАВОСЛАВНИ ЕПИСКОП ЗАПАДНОАМЕРИЧКИ

Ep. No. 294

July 26, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you with much gratitude and joy in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we are in full preparation for the upcoming celebration of our Fifteenth Annual Diocesan Days Gathering, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your past support of our Diocese. Your love, concern, and commitment have enabled us to expand our ministries through youth and adult retreats, Orthodox publications, children's camp programs, parent education, iconography workshops, our Annual Diocesan Days gatherings, and much more.

Today, I earnestly appeal to you for your support of our Fifteenth Annual Diocesan Days Gathering scheduled for Labor Day weekend, September 2-4, at Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra, California where all of our faithful will have an opportunity to come together in one place as one family in prayer and fellowship. Your contribution to this celebration will be especially valuable given that we will be commemorating the Ninetieth Anniversary of the establishment of the first Serbian Orthodox Diocese in North America and the appointment of its first Bishop. A special publication will focus on the legacy of those early pioneers whose hard work and unwavering faith and generosity set the foundation of our Diocese as well as the other Dioceses of the Serbian Orthodox Church on this Continent. Surely it behooves us to honor their memory by contributing to the success of our Diocesan Days celebration.

As St. Sava reminds us: "Faith can save us only if united and expressed in good works inspired by the love of God." As Orthodox Christians, we are called upon to share our time, talents, and finances in order to support and accomplish good works for our community.

I appeal to you to support Diocesan Days by becoming a sponsor and/or by purchasing an ad or a greeting to be published in the event program book. By donating \$1,000 to become a Gold Sponsor or \$500 to become a Silver Sponsor, you will help to underwrite some of the many expenses incurred by this event. A greeting or ad in the program book, which will also include articles and pictures highlighting the progress of the Diocese, will further help guarantee a successful event. Sponsors will receive special recognition in the event program book, and Gold Sponsors will be invited to sit at the banquet table with our Hierarchs, guest speakers, and other invited dignitaries.

To contribute, please complete the enclosed form and send it along with your check to:
Western American Diocese, 2011 Annual, 1621 West Garvey Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

Your prompt reply, preferably by August 15th, will be most appreciated.

May the grace, love, and communion of the Holy Trinity be with you and your loved ones as you continue your good works.

With God's blessings,

Right Reverend Bishop Maxim
Bishop of Western America