



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

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This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

**Office of the Auxiliary Bishop
Most Reverend Andriy Rabyi**

March 26, 2020

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

The rich person is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.

-- St. John Chrysostom

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our Philadelphia Archeparchy, most of our church communities are small in the number of parishioners but overflowing with generosity, love of God, and a spirit of sacrifice.

During the present pandemic you witness concern for family and friends, love of God and neighbor, and mutual sacrifice. Each of you is to be commended for your care and cooperation during this unprecedented situation. Together we are all listening to what the Lord is communicating to us. It is clear that this crisis is a spiritual wake-up call.

The nation and the world are following the lead of our highest government and church authorities to safeguard each and every one of you in body and soul. With the precautionary cancellation of public services, our clergy, religious, and faithful have responded with understanding. We all experience the loss of coming together as a parish family for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Although public services are not being held, liturgical prayer in church for your intentions continues. Our priests continue to celebrate Divine Liturgies and other services. The clergy are intensifying their outreach in creative and caring ways.

While you are not able to come to church, our parishes must continue to pay their bills. It is common knowledge that many of our parishes rely solely on the weekly collections and fundraisers to meet their expenses. Presently, there are no weekly collections, and fundraisers have been cancelled. As you can imagine, our parishes need your financial support now, more than ever. None of us will avoid financial difficulties completely. Some of you already are experiencing great challenges personally and in your families. To get through these hard times we will all need to make sacrifices.

We appeal to you to please mail your weekly offerings to your parishes until public services are resumed. Your sacrificial giving is needed to help your parish meet its financial obligations in order to maintain pastoral stability.

In doing so, let us recall the words of St. Paul: "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Thank you for your generous offerings and may the blessings of Our Lord be upon you and your families, now and always.

Very sincerely, Yours in Christ,

+Borys (Gudziak)

Archbishop-Metropolitan of Philadelphia for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States
Head, Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
President, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

Most Rev. Andriy Rabyi

Auxiliary Bishop for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia