



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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Dearly Beloved in the Lord:
Christ is in our midst!

Nine years ago, in an attempt to fund the ministries of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, we initiated the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Program**, of which you have been a great supporter. Through the generosity of parishes, organizations and faithful from across the length and breadth of our Diocese, we have been able to raise more than \$1.1 million dollars in this effort in the first eight years.

With the money raised, we have been able to support the various ministries of our Diocese – Retreats for Altar Servers, Young Women, Teens, and College Students; Conferences for Parish Council Members, Church School Teachers, Choir Directors and Singers; and the publication of the renowned *Jacob's Well* magazine; to provide scholarships for our current 5 diocesan seminarians; to spearhead revitalization initiatives for parishes in financial distress, such as "Operation: Buffalo" – and to assist in the building of a new temple in "Operation: Princeton" and the refurbishing of a beautiful church in "Operation: Pearl River"; as well as to offer funding for our missions in Lansing, Oneonta, and Potsdam, and New Brunswick.

Beloved in the Lord, it was your generous contribution to the DDB Fund that enabled those successes to be achieved by our Diocese. You cannot know how grateful our Diocese is for your kindness and generosity ... and how grateful to God our seminarians, our missions, our Buffalo and Princeton parishes, and our young people are for you and your kind charity. Please continue to help us in this holy work!

To continue such ministries, we set up a line item in our budget, to be funded by the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Program each year. With nearly eleven months having passed, we are quite a bit "short" of this year's budgeted goal – we still need more than \$83,000 by the end of this calendar year!

I am prayerfully requesting that you consider in your heart becoming a Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor again this year, offering a donation at whatever level you are able, and earmarking your contribution for one of these options: **Support for Mission Parishes; Support for Seminarians; Support for Existing Parishes; or, As Needed by the Diocese.**

In considering your gift, be mindful of all that God has given to you, and recall the words of the Holy Scriptures that instruct members of the Church *not to set our priorities on wealth, "but on God, Who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. (We) are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for (ourselves) as a good foundation for the future, so that (we) may take hold of that which is truly life"* (I Timothy 6:17-19).

Please know how grateful I am for your generosity as a supporting member of our DDB program. Be assured of my appreciation for your prayers and your help in continuing to make successful this bold effort of charity in the Name of the Lord.

With my prayers, my blessings and my love,

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Archbishop of New York and New Jersey