



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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Beloved in the Lord:  
Christ is in our midst!

As you are aware, the 2016 Diocesan Assembly will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 1-2, 2016.

This year I have asked for a change in format from prior Assemblies: I have asked the Commission on Liturgical Music (CoLM) to involve our children in the event. In response, the CoLM is organizing a short concert by Diocesan children singers on Tuesday night, November 1, at Holy Trinity Church in Yonkers.

I ask you to support this wonderful venture as follows:

- Encourage the children of your parish and their parents to participate. We will make the preparations as convenient as possible. The children will rehearse with excellent Diocesan musicians, who will teach the meaning as well as the presentation of the music.
- If you have not already done so, notify the CoLM (email [nynjmusic@aol.com](mailto:nynjmusic@aol.com)) of the number of your children who can participate. Some experience is helpful, but outstanding voices are not a prerequisite. **Please make every effort to reply to the CoLM by July 31**, so that they may plan accordingly, although participants added after that date will certainly be included.
- Ask your choir directors or other capable parishioners to help teach your children the music. (Sheet music is attached to this emailed letter in nine PDF files.)
- Help your participating families and children to get to the 2-3 regional rehearsals before the concert. Dates and places will be announced.
- Be sure to attend the concert at 7:30 pm on November 1 in Yonkers. It will be recorded and made available to parishes.

Our children are the future of our Church – and the Church needs to be the future of our children! The more we can involve them meaningfully in the work of the Church, the better we will nurture and propagate the Orthodox Faith. This project is something new, and so it will take special effort to make it happen. Please do your best to make it a success, with strong participation.

With my prayers, my blessings, and my love,

*+ Michael*

+ MICHAEL

Archbishop of New York and the  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey