



**ORTHODOX BISHOP OF WESTERN AMERICA**  
**ПРАВОСЛАВНИ ЕПИСКОП ЗАПАДНОАМЕРИЧКИ**  
**SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF WESTERN AMERICA**

Friday, January 24th, 2014  
The Leave-taking of Holy Theophany  
Ep. No. 51

Reverend Clergy of the Diocese of Western America,

Greetings in the Revealed Christ!

We hope that as you receive this letter you remain filled with the festal joy and abundant grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who once again reveals Himself to us all in the waters of the Jordan.

As summer 2014 approaches, we are again working diligently to plan an extraordinary trip –a spiritual pilgrimage –to some of the most beloved sites of Orthodox history. Although the trip is not exclusive, our desire is to make it primarily available to the youth and young adults of our Diocese for their benefit and spiritual edification.

In facing the challenges of our modern, secular society here in America, we commonly experience the severe spiritual drought in our culture, which affects us all to the very core of our being, but especially the tender and vulnerable souls of our young people. Our hope with this pilgrimage is to provide –if only for a few short days and hours –a taste of those spiritual paradises which God has planted at other times and places through the fruitful efforts of those who have gone before us.

The trip will expose our young people to the very heartlands which nurtured our forefathers in places such as Ostrog and Studenica, Hilandar on the Holy Mountain, and the great Christian city of Constantinople. It will include multiple destinations in our beloved Serbia and Herzegovina, and also in Greece and Turkey. Not only will it be an opportunity to drink deeply from the spiritual wells in those places, but it will also represent a unique learning experience to those still actively involved in their educational development.

As such opportunities are few, it is our wish that each parish in our Diocese make it their goal to *send and sponsor* at least one young person from their parish on the pilgrimage. In order to make the trip available to as many as possible, we have done our best to keep the total cost of the pilgrimage as reasonable as possible – around \$3,300. We are getting the word out early to give individuals and parishes as much time as possible to make preparations for the pilgrimage which will begin June 24th, and run through July 8th. For anyone who is interested in more information we have created a separate page on the Diocesan website, which can be seen at <http://westsrbdio.org/en/travel>. You may also contact Fr. Bratso Krsic at 619-316-2362 (email: [frbratso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frbratso@sbcglobal.net)), or the Diocesan office at 626-289-9061 (email: [secretary.westsrbdio@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.westsrbdio@gmail.com)). A printable form of the pilgrimage flyer can be accessed by the small printer icon next to the top, right corner of the flyer as it is seen on the website. Please print and distribute at your discretion.

Sending you our arch-pastoral prayers and blessing,

I remain yours in Christ,

By God's grace, Bishop of the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church