



EPISCOPAL COUNCIL
Serbian Orthodox Dioceses in the United States of America,
Canada and Central & South America

P.O. Box 519, Libertyville, Illinois 60048

E.C. No. 1/19
March 20, 2019

SUMMONS TO THE REGULAR CHURCH ASSEMBLY [SABOR]

In accordance with Article 18 of the Constitution of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, We hereby summon to its regular session, the **Church Assembly [Sabor]** of the Serbian Orthodox Dioceses in the United States of America, to be held at the facilities of **New Gracanica Monastery, 35240 W. Grant Ave., Third Lake, Illinois 60046, Saturday, July 13 through Tuesday, July 16, 2019.** As the *Sabor* will begin in the afternoon on July 13, delegates should arrive by that morning and plan to stay until the afternoon of July 16. According to a decision of the Episcopal Council, all priests are required to be in attendance for the Sunday Liturgy on July 14 at St. Sava Monastery in the presence of the incorrupt relics of St. Mardarije.

Enclosed you will find a Credentials Form which each Congregation Board is required to fill out for its 3 participants and return with a registration fee of **\$250 per person made payable to the “Diocese of New Gracanica and Midwestern America”** and mailed to the 2019 *Sabor* Committee c/o New Gracanica Monastery, P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, IL 60030. The registration fee includes all meals and the Grand Banquet. All completed credential forms with registration fees must be submitted by June 15, 2019, so that each participant receives the necessary documents for the *Sabor*.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the following are participants to this Assembly:

- Diocesan Bishops
- Active and retired clerics of both orders
- Members of the Central Church Council
- Members of the Diocesan Councils
- Two (2) delegates from every Church-School Congregation in good standing. One of these is ex-officio the President of the Executive Board of the Congregation (or his alternate Vice President), and the other is the elected delegate of the Church-School Congregation.
- Two (2) representatives of each Diocesan Federation of Circles of Serbian Sisters.
- One (1) representative of the School of Theology

Additionally, we ask that each parish sends a high school delegate to participate in *Sabor* activities. (More information regarding youth participation to follow.)

The theme of the 22nd *Sabor* is **“800 Years of Autocephaly of the Serbian Orthodox Church: Endowed by God, Treasured by the People”** and will center on this historic anniversary and how it relates to our life in the Orthodox Church as a whole. Our guest of honor and main speaker during the *Sabor* will be **His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia**, the world renowned Orthodox theologian and professor.

We ask every Church-School Congregation to encourage its active representation and participation in all aspects of these important gatherings of our Church. The 22nd *Sabor* is an important and joyful gathering of the Church and will give us the opportunity to work together for the good of the future of our Serbian Orthodox Church in this country.

With the blessing of God,

Bishop of New Gracanica and Midwestern America, President of the Episcopal Council