

The Diocese of the South

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Archpastoral Message

September 5, 2008

Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Baptist

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9: 37-38)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Diocese of the South has turned a significant page in its short but fruitful history. Thirty years from the time of the first Assembly in Miami, Florida the Lord has answered a prayer with the election of Archimandrite Jonah (Paffhausen) to the Episcopacy who will take up responsibilities as Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor for the Diocese of the South. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Archimandrite Jonah into our midst. I pray that in the years ahead he will experience the joy which has been mine since 1978, working with clergy and laymen in the South whose dedication to evangelism is unquestionable and inspiring.

A number of faithful have asked about specific changes in administration that will come about with the advent of Archimandrite Jonah. Indeed, as both Auxiliary and Chancellor his duties will be quite varied, his schedule undoubtedly demanding. Archimandrite Jonah will work directly with me in helping to administer the Diocese of the South. He will in turn work closely with the chancery staff, deans, parish priests and faithful to facilitate our missionary efforts in the South.

With the advent of Archimandrite Jonah come increased possibilities for expanding and strengthening our evangelistic efforts. Many people in the Diocese have not yet had an opportunity to meet him. Therefore, let me say by way of introduction that he is a gifted person, eager to serve, who has demonstrated leadership abilities. In addition he is theologically adept, an accomplished writer and speaker and a man of vision who understands the centrality of prayer as well as mission work in the Christian life. He loves his fellow man and is able to identify with the words of the Apostle, *“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some”* (1 Corinthians 9:22).

We are truly blessed by the addition of Archimandrite Jonah to our Diocesan family. I ask each member of the Diocese to join me in this welcome and to pray that our Lord will give him the necessary strength and wisdom to carry on with future responsibilities. May God grant him many years!

With love in Christ,



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Archbishop of Dallas and the South

Locum tenens of the Metropolitan See