

# ***Serbian Orthodox Church to celebrate historic Octocentennial of Autocephaly***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOS ANGELES** – The Serbian Orthodox Church is one of 14 autocephalous members of the Eastern Orthodox communion. The Church achieved autocephalous status in 1219. The Western Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church will host a historic anniversary commemoration of autocephaly with thousands of people from throughout the United States expected to attend on August 30-September 1<sup>st</sup>. The event will take place at the facilities of the Saint Sava parish in San Gabriel, California. Among the dignitaries expected to attend the event are His Holiness, Irinej (Gavrilovic), the Serbian Patriarch and Metropolitan Amfilohije of Montenegro, renowned Serbian bishop and writer.

## **About the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States**

The Serbian Orthodox Church in America is a US-based autonomous church body in the jurisdiction of the Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate headquartered in Belgrade, Serbia. There are three dioceses in the United States, 130 parishes, 12 monasteries and a theological school. Many of these churches stand as breathtaking representations of Serbo-Byzantine architecture which include unique characteristic elements from the Middle Ages. They are monuments to the timeless qualities of the Serbian Orthodox Church and noteworthy cultural contributions of the Serbian people's ancestry.

## **About the Western American Diocese**

The Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church is one of three dioceses in the United States with its headquarters in Los Angeles at the Cathedral of Saint Steven in Alhambra, California. It was formed in 1963 and has parishes and monasteries in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Utah.

## **About Saint Sava Church in San Gabriel**

The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is a parish of the Western American Diocese and is located at 1640 S San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel, California.

Information about the event is available at [www.westsrbdio.org](http://www.westsrbdio.org), Tel 626-281-9061, or E-mail [info@westsrbdio.org](mailto:info@westsrbdio.org)