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

Ep. No. 112/20 March 13, 2020

Alhambra, CA

## FOR CLERGY, MONASTICS, AND FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN AMERICA OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Fathers, dear brothers and sisters,

Blessed and spiritually successful Great Lent!

An extraordinary Church assembly was recently held in Florida, presided by His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, and it reached the following decision:

- 1. Serbian Orthodox Church in North, Central and South America, in order to remove any doubt, once again confirms its inseparable and unquestionable inner unity and it points out that it has been, and remains, an integral canonical and hierarchial part of the Autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church with center in Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2. The extraordinary assembly hereby implements decisions of the Holy Hierarchical Synod No. 995 and 1009, rec. 638 of September 25, 2019 which says, "Make void all decisions of the Church assembly of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North, Central and South America [July 2019]... pertaining to the structure of the Serbian dioceses in those territories."
- 3. All proposals regarding the Constitution are to be left to the Episcopal Council and the Holy Hierachical Synod to resolve, and once an agreed-upon version is reached, the same is to be delivered to the Holy Hierachical Assembly by the Holy Hierachical Synod.
- 4. Inform all Church-school communities and all parishes on the territory of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North, Central and South America about this decision.

We would like to believe that decisions of this Assembly, as well as words of His Holiness, Patriarch of Serbia which were heard on that day, will bring peace and calm among our faithful. We pray to all the Serbian Saints with Saint Sava at the helm, to give us strength to preserve our Orthodox Faith and remain faithful to our Serbian name.

With the blessing of God,

J. Cop Maxim