Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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APPEAL FOR SUPPORT: THE BETHANY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

At the 2013 Diocesan Assembly held in Yonkers NY, Bishop Michael shared the profoundly moving experience of his visit, this past May, to the Bethany School for Girls at the Gethsemane Convent of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission. The Bethany School is located in the very area of Jerusalem where our Savior visited often and where His friends Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary lived. It was there that He accomplished one of His greatest miracles, the resurrection of Lazarus, already dead four days. Today, amidst an atmosphere of increasing animosity toward Christians, a dedicated and selfless group of Russian Orthodox nuns operates this school which, though recognized as one of the best in the area, still struggles to cover its costs and to maintain its foothold in the face of intensifying anti-Christian encroachment looming at its very gates.

At the Diocesan Assembly, the motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed that the Diocesan Assembly support Bishop Michael's effort to provide assistance to the Bethany School for Girls in Jerusalem. To that end, our faithful ~ collectively or individually ~ are invited to offer financial assistance for the Bethany School as part of their almsgiving during this Nativity Fast and during Great Lent 2014. In particular, Church School classes, parish youth groups, and Junior F.O.C.A., Junior "O" Club, and Junior "R" Club chapters are invited to gather whatever offering, however humble, to send to their sisters in the Holy Land.

Ms. Marge Kovach, one of the members of our Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry, has volunteered to coordinate these efforts. Once your contributions have been collected, checks can be made payable to the **Diocese of New York and New Jersey**, with **"Bethany School"** in the memo section, and mailed to:

Marge Kovach ~ 8 Ginesi Drive ~ Clark NJ 07066
email: mjkovach@aol.com

"With sincere gratitude, I ask God's blessings upon your efforts to follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul," said Bishop Michael, ***"who wrote to the Church in Rome: 'I am going to Jerusalem, to minister to the saints.'"*** (Romans 15:25)

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