



*Orthodox Church in America*  
**DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST**

November 30, 2017  
Apostle Andrew the First-called  
№. 185

To all Clergy, Monastics and Laity of the Diocese of the Midwest

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Two years ago, we embarked on the motorbikes for Kenya collection, in which our Diocese collected over \$31,000.00 to purchase 33 motorbikes for the Diocese of Kenya. Thank you for your generosity. The news of this project has become well known throughout the Orthodox world, and I am so thankful to God that we were able to do something within our means to help our fellow Orthodox brethren across the Atlantic.

During this Advent Season, I have been thinking about how we might be able to do something to again assist our fellow Orthodox Christians needing support. Next July, the Midwest Diocese is hosting the All-American Council (AAC) in St. Louis. Making it to the AAC is particularly difficult for delegates from Alaska and Mexico due to the **real lack** of financial resources they have to cover the expenses for the AAC. Here is the breakdown of the costs to attend the AAC supplied to me by Melanie Ringa, Treasurer of the OCA.

**For Mexico**

Airplane Ticket	\$400.00
Hotel Sunday – Friday 150.00 a night	\$750.00
Train to hotel and back to airport	\$20.00
Meals: 40.00 a day for 6 days	\$240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,410.00</b>

**For Alaska**

Flight(s): Anchorage to and from St. Louis -	\$1000.00
Transport to and from Anchorage -	\$500.00
Transport to hotel and airport	\$20.00
Hotel: \$150 / night x five nights -	\$750.00
Food: \$40 / day x six days -	\$240.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,510.00</b>

As the host Diocese of the AAC, I think it would be a good thing to ask our

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parishes to help out in the way they did two years ago in the motorbike collection. It would be great if we could raise enough funds to send at least 4 people from each Diocese to enable them to attend next year's AAC. The funds we need to raise to do so comes to \$15,680.00. One or two of our parishes having the resources might be so bold as to donate the entire cost for a delegate from Alaska or Mexico. Parishes can partner up and put up half the funds each for a delegate. Our youth could sponsor a meal at their parish to raise these funds. I just want to encourage you to do what you can to help; any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please make out your checks to the "Diocese of the Midwest" and note that it is for "Alaska-Mexico." It would be good to have these funds collected by February 1, 2018. AAC registration opens up as of January 1, 2018.

May this be a fruitful Advent Fast for us all, as we wait in anticipation of our Lord's wondrous Nativity.

With love in Christ, the unworthy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul  
Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

**To be circulated among all the faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest**