



January 4, 2011

Very Rev. Ken James Stavrevsky, Rector
Parish Council Members and Parishioners
Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church
543 Seneca Parkway
Rochester, New York 14613

Dear Father Ken James and Beloved Faithful:
Christ is in our midst!

It is with profound gratitude that I express to you my sincerest appreciation for your incredibly generous pledge of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) to the **2011 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Fund**, with special designation of your offering for a **Seminarian Scholarship** (to be fulfilled in installments of \$500.00 each month, and earmarked for the benefit of Matthew Markewich at St. Tikhon's Seminary).

Your magnanimous gift helps to make possible the education of a future priest of our Church! What an investment you have made! You have listened carefully to the teaching of Our Lord in the Gospel and you have followed His command: **"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal."** (Matthew 6:19-20).

While your dividends for this investment will not be in dollars and cents, they will instead be in this form: You will have a son in Christ praying for you always in return for your great kindness to him ... now in his daily prayers ... and someday when he stands before the Altar as a spiritual father!

As our gracious God has blessed you richly, you have chosen to share your blessings for the building up of Christ's Holy Church and for the extension of His Heavenly Kingdom here on earth. Indeed, He has seen your faith and love in action, and He will surely reward you for it with His grace and bounties and love for mankind.

Once again I thank you for your generosity as **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors**. Be assured of my remembrance of you in every Liturgy I serve, as a pledge of the good things to come from God's hands.

With my prayers, my blessings and my love,

+ Michael

+ MICHAEL

Bishop of New York and the
Diocese of New York and New Jersey