



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

November 4, 2012

Dearly Beloved Clergy and Faithful,

Christ is in our midst!

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel and the Holy Synod, I have been given the opportunity to issue this statement.

As you know there has been an investigation of misconduct on my part. To all parties involved, I ask forgiveness for my poor judgment and careless words spoken to the complainant.

I am deeply sorry that I have offended, confused, and caused hurt to this young woman. I will communicate my apology directly and personally to her.

I wish that I could convince all of you what I am certain of in my heart – that the conscious motives behind my interaction with this woman were not impure. But, I know that only active, demonstrated repentance – confession of my sins, pursuit of the means of changing, and a resulting change in conduct – will be convincing. I have pledged to the Holy Synod, and now I pledge to you, the clergy and faithful, that I will undergo the spiritual and emotional counseling and guidance recommended to me by the Holy Synod so that I will never inflict this same offense, confusion, and hurt on anyone else.

My mistakes have caused pain, confusion, and deep disappointment to many, many people with whose spiritual guidance the Lord has entrusted me, who are reading this message. I ask your forgiveness. I beg your prayers. And I pray that our All-Merciful God will guide all of us as we struggle together on the difficult path of salvation.

Asking your forgiveness,

+Bishop Matthias

(To be read at the Sunday Divine Liturgy, November 4, 2012)