



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

Ep. No. 90

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Dear brothers,

For centuries our people have struggled to preserve their venerable identity, and for centuries our Church has survived thanks to the strong faith that guided and saved us in various adversities, the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which in the past and in the present has proven and proved to be the only true path to our salvation. That is why, dear brethren, it is of utmost importance to support everything for the benefit of us, the Serbian people, our Serbian community and the Orthodox faith, to help preserve our culture, customs, languages and backgrounds, and we will only succeed if we who vowing to serve Him, urging our parishioners to do the same.

The 2020 U.S. Census is coming soon. This recording of all residents, different peoples, ethnic groups, diverse communities and national minorities occurs every ten years in the United States of America. **That is why we must not miss the opportunity for all of us Serbs here on American soil to enroll and declare themselves as "Serbian." It is crucial for our Serbian community in the diaspora to show how many there are, to prove that we are far more than the 178,000 officially enrolled in the last census exactly ten years ago, and thus to give greater rights to ourselves and our loved ones.** In the letter I deliver to you to share with your parishioners, you will find what it is all we need to know and why it is crucial for all of us Serbs to be listed in America.

Therefore, I ask you to send, read, deliver, publish, send this message to all your parishioners and point out why it is important for us as a people and for our faith that we survive and grow as a community. **The bigger we are, the more our rights are. First at the local and then at the federal level. With more residents, we get the rights to larger funds from the federal budget that will help preserve our organizations, our schools, and therefore our cultural heritage and rich traditions that we have kept for centuries.** Lest we forget who we are and where we are from!

Episope Maxim

Bishop of the Diocese of Western America