



# The Orthodox HealthPlan

April 3, 2013

Nikitas the Confessor

Dear Orthodox Health Plan Participant,

On behalf of the Orthodox Health Plan Benefits Committee, I hope and pray that this has been a spiritually rewarding, blessed and healthy Great and Holy Lent.

As you must be aware, health care costs continue to escalate throughout this great land of ours. The Federal Government has instituted certain measures, The Affordable Care Act, which for health plans like ours have added to the costs and compounded the increase. Unfortunately, our utilization was extremely high – at or above the 100% “loss ratio” after taking into account claims and administrative expenses compared to premiums paid. In simple terms, the premiums paid are what pay for the health insurance claims. When the claims almost equal the premiums – the premiums must be increased. This past year, the Plan had fifty-seven claims of more than \$25,000. **This is extremely high.**

As a result of all these factors, Aetna initially approached this Committee with a twenty-one and a half percent increase. With negotiations, Aetna reduced the increase to slightly over fourteen percent. Finally, further reductions were made by Aetna using monies in their “Premium Stabilization Reserve” (which is reserved for prior year claims) and use by the Committee of a reserve fund subsidy. As of May 1, 2013 the new monthly premium for a single member will be \$1,043 and for a family will be \$2,188. This reflects a one hundred dollar increase for the single rate and a two hundred dollar increase for the family rate. **Please keep in mind that approximately one third of the increase is because of the Affordable Care Act which is beyond our control.**

Although this is a very difficult reality, please know that your Committee has done whatever possible to reduce the rates. We extend our thanks to each of the members of the Orthodox Health Plan Committee in addition to our Administrator and Consultant for their dedicated service.

We offer our prayers to each of you and your beloved families for a year of good health both physically and spiritually. In joyful expectation of Holy Pascha,

In Christ's Service,

Fr Constantine Sitaras  
Chairman, Joint Orthodox HealthPlan Committee