



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN USA  
**ST. STEPHEN CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER**



October 27, 2008

Re: St. Stephen Retreat Center  
Pensacola, Florida  
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States. As you may know, in 2006, the Diocese purchased fifteen acres of waterfront land in Pensacola, Florida to build the St. Stephen Retreat Center ("Retreat Center"), a facility that will accommodate up to 500 persons.

The Retreat Center will be used for youth and family conventions and will be managed by consecrated sisters. It will include a church, a convent for the consecrated sisters, 120 rooms accommodating 480 persons, a multipurpose hall, a dining hall, kitchen, and open theater, among other wonderful amenities.

The Retreat Center will be built in phases, the first of which will include the reception building, one dormitory building, the kitchen, dining hall, and lecture room building. The estimated cost for the whole project is \$15 million; the first phase alone will cost \$5 million.

Here's where you come into play! The Diocese is planning on selling sweatshirts to raise awareness (and funds) for the Retreat Center. To make sure that 100% of the profits from the sale of the sweatshirts go directly to the Retreat Center, we are looking for sponsors who will assist us in covering overhead costs. Your tax-deductible contribution, no matter the amount, will be greatly appreciated. Should the Spirit move you, any contribution made directly to the St. Stephen Retreat Center would also be extremely appreciated.

Tax-deductible letters will be provided to you by the Diocese if you choose to donate. You may donate online at [www.suscopts.org](http://www.suscopts.org) or by check, payable to "Diocese of the Southern United States". Please mail your check to St. Stephen Retreat Center, P.O. Box 1005, Colleyville, Texas 76034-1005. For more information, email us at [tcl.committee@gmail.com](mailto:tcl.committee@gmail.com). Thank you again for your time and support.

God bless.

Fr. Theophilus Mikhail  
Secretary, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States