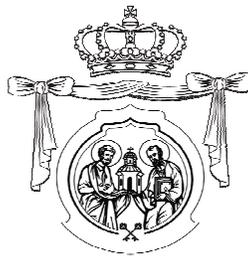


His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

November 5, 2018

For although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I delight to see your orderly condition and firm faith in Christ. Colossians 2:5

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy and Monastics of our Antiochian Archdiocese of North America:

As Orthodox Christians, we have a sacred duty to speak truth, do everything decently and in order, and maintain the unity of the faith. To this sacred end, I urge you to avoid controversies, model love and maintain brotherly relationships and unity with our brothers from our sister churches. I call upon you to pray fervently for all of the Patriarchs and Synods of all of the Orthodox Churches. We need God's guidance in this time of turmoil and stress. The issues facing the Church now are serious and require discernment and wisdom.

I remind you not to make statements on behalf of the Church, Patriarchate or Archdiocese to the press or on the internet without the expressed written permission of the Metropolitan's Office. This includes blogs, bulletins, electronic bulletin boards, other social media outlets and sermons. When asked about the current events concerning the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Moscow, please refer people to "The Statement of the Holy Synod of Antioch" and "The Joint Statement of the Serbian and Antiochian Orthodox Patriarchates". The Hierarchs of our Archdiocese gathered for our meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts and have found the said two statements to be wise and balanced. I have attached them for your convenience.

I thank you in advance for your fervent prayers and strict adherence to this and all other policies of our Archdiocese.

Yours in the service of Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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