



December 7, 2018

No. 12/002

GREETING OF HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN TIKHON
PRIMATE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
TO THE MOST REVEREND HIERARCHS, THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
THE DEAN OF ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH AND PRIESTS OF THE PARISH
AND ALL WHO HAVE GATHERED FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE FEAST OF ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR

The commemoration each year of St. Catherine-the-Great Martyr is a joyful feast for the Orthodox Church in America's St. Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow. This day is a vivid sign of the spiritual unity and eucharistic communion between the Holy Church of Russia and the Orthodox Church in America.

Today we are witnessing a time of tension between the United States and Russia, to some extent returning our nations to old habits and suspicions. In relations among Orthodox Churches globally there is also controversy and alienation. It is all the more important to lift up every possible sign and experience of good will. In doing so today, we fervently pray for the "peace of the whole world and the welfare of God's holy churches."

On behalf of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America I extend cordial greetings to the Dean of St. Catherine's Church, Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, and the priests of the parish. I also warmly welcome the members of the diplomatic community in Moscow and wish them much success in their honorable labors to strengthen mutual understanding and peace in our troubled world. To the parishioners of St. Catherine's Church and all those gathered today, I extend my blessing in the words of the Divine Liturgy itself - may "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tikhon', with a cross symbol to its left.

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada