

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

September 4, 2019

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, and Beloved Faithful in Christ:

Greetings to you in the Name of Our Victorious and Risen Lord, Our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please accept the sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers of the entire Antiochian Archdiocese on the passing of our beloved brother and concelebrant, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON. His Eminence was known for his gentle soul and pastoral heart. We know that he will be missed, not only by his flocks of the New England and Albanian dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America, but by all American Orthodox.

His Eminence was no stranger to the sorrows that come with walking the narrow way in this world, losing his beloved wife and partner in ministry. The Lord willed to transform his earthly loss into a means of bringing souls to heaven by calling him to the ranks of the episcopate. In this new ministry, His Eminence blossomed into a wise and faithful shepherd of not one but two flocks.

Towards the end of his life, the Lord allowed him to struggle with illnesses, and perhaps Vladyka NIKON called out to Him: "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest!" When the psalmist prayed these words, he was hoping for deliverance from earthly enemies. His Eminence is now at rest from the eternal enemies of man – sin and death – vanquished by Our Lord, Jesus Christ. His Eminence has flown away from us, but while he now rests from the trials of this life, he joins his beloved Sarah along with the hosts of angels who: "do not rest, day or night, singing, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come.'"

With fervent hope in the Resurrection of Our Lord, I greet all of you with the angelic salutation emanating from the Empty Tomb: Christ is risen!

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

+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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