



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: PV033/2022

Nativity 2022



Brother Hierarchs and the Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Trustees, and Pious Faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings to you in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is born as a child from the all-immaculate, ever-virgin Mary and layed in the manger at Bethlehem.

Today we praise the Lord with the angels and the multitude of the heavenly host who appeared to the shepherds singing the hymn of salvation for humanity and all creation and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:9–11, 13–14).

Today is the day of our rebirth in the Divine Child who comes to renew our beings and our nature, and to restore the image of God and His likeness in man.

Today we discover the True God Who, in His unfathomable humility and meekness, reveals Himself to us as God-Love, descending to our poverty and wretchedness through His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today the new humanity is born, and new life is given to us so that we become in Christ Jesus the sons of God and His heirs.

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

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Today we are called to be reborn in the Divine Child by assimilating ourselves to His ultimate humility—He Who “emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7). For the Lord has showed us the road to the eternal glory of God: Humility.

Dear and beloved in Christ,

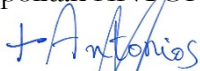
May the Nativity of our Lord and His descent to us lift each of our hearts from earthly whims and inflame them with the fire of His divine love, burning away the thorns of our lusts so that nothing else can dwell in them but Him.

May the birth of the newborn Divine Child be a chance for each of us to ask for rebirth in Him through the love of humility.

Beloved in Christ, “Do not pride yourselves on your visionary, fleeting distinctions, for true distinction can only be found in virtue. Glory of this world! Learn here, before the manger, your vanity. Thus, let us all humble ourselves; let us all fall down in the dust before the boundless humility and exhaustion of the Sovereign of all, of God, Who has come to heal our infirmities, to save us from pride, vanity, corruption, and every sinful impurity” (St. John of Kronstadt).

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS



Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

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