

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 2, 2022

Beloved Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Board of Trustees and all the Faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese,

I greet all of you as we begin the new Ecclesiastical Year with much love and gratitude to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With God's mercy, on Saturday, September 3, 2022, I am traveling to the Monastery of Balamand in Lebanon for a meeting with Our Father in Christ, Patriarch John X scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2022. The only item on our agenda is the sorrowful attack on the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America via scandalous gossip regarding me at the head as its Metropolitan.

Know that the church, from its beginning, has always and will always be attacked. This is a time for serious fasting and prayer and as your father in Christ, I beseech you to do so as earnestly as you can. Pray for the church, pray for me, pray for our accusers and for those who wish us harm. Pray with all your heart that the truth be revealed in God's time and for His purpose, to spare His church from harm and evil doers and to be merciful on us and on all those who disobey Him.

From the holy fathers we read, *"...do not take pleasure in listening to gossip or criticisms, or the calumnies, which some people spread about their brethren; but either stop them, if you can, or withdraw, so as not to hear them."* (from *Unseen Warfare*)

It is the hour for this Archdiocese to stand in unity, strength and to be unwavering in our devotion to God and His holy church. Love one another and forgive one another.

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is underlined with a blue line.

**+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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