

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

October 6, 2016

Feast of the Apostle Thomas

To: The Clergy of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

From: His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

Dear Reverend Clergy,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray you and your families are well as you fulfill the ministry for which you have been called.

Since my election as Metropolitan, I have continued to serve you as your local bishop until such time as we have a new bishop to oversee the Diocese of the West. This role as “locum tenens” is, of course, in addition to my role as the Metropolitan of the entire archdiocese. This has been no easy task, but I will continue to do so until the right man can be found to serve this vast and diverse diocese. In the meantime, we have a very capable and able retired bishop residing in Southern California, His Grace Bishop DEMETRI, whom I am appointing to help me in the function of serving you and visiting you beginning upon the receipt of this letter.

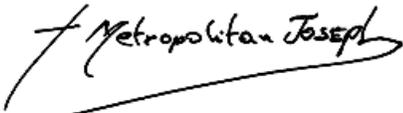
I would like and expect you to welcome His Grace Bishop DEMETRI to your parishes and to treat him as though I myself was visiting you. He has my blessing to visit any parish in the diocese of Los Angeles and the West, to direct and correct you as clergymen when necessary and to speak to your parish councils in order to handle and mediate problems as they arise. He will be representing me and functioning on my behalf and reporting his activities to me so I can stay better informed of what is happening in the diocese and so that the good work and order we built together will not suffer or deteriorate because of my physical absence.

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

His Grace Bishop DEMETRI is a wonderful liturgist and an excellent administrator and will be a great asset to me in serving you when I am away from the diocese. Please feel free to invite him or to call him with routine questions, parish problems or issues. His contact information is in the archdiocese directory.

Wishing you all of God's blessings, I remain,

Your Brother in Christ,

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

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

cc: His Grace Bishop DEMETRI
Their Graces, Bishops ANTOUN, BASIL, THOMAS, ALEXANDER, JOHN,
ANTHONY, and NICHOLAS

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

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