

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

August 27, 2019

Dear Reverend Fathers and Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of Our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

During our most recent convention, the most important discussion was on the topic of youth and young adult ministry, and I would argue that the most important thing we can do for our young people is to introduce them to the person of the Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, through engaging the Holy Scriptures. This coming year, the young people will study the Gospel of John with all of its rich theological teaching, and I expect the Bible Studies over the course of the next several months to be invigorating and life-changing.

The theme of the Oratorical Festival is also a timely one: “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” The world often portrays the evangelical teachings of the Church as condemnatory or hateful, and I look forward to the youth engaging these words of the Lord to reflect on the beauty of the life God offers us in the Holy Church.

I ask us all to recommit ourselves each year to preserving these rich and life-giving programs and making them ever new for each rising generation – never letting them grow stagnant or become routine. Let us put all of our minds and hearts into making this year and every year more God-pleasing and beautiful than the last.

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

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue 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

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

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