

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT**

October, 2021

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! When our Savior sent out His twelve disciples to preach His Kingdom and minister His healing grace, He encouraged them with these words: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matt. 10:16). This exhortation also applies to every generation of priests sent out by Christ to minister in His Church—all the more so today, as we face so many challenges to our faith. As our culture grows hostile and resistant to divine truth, we must balance shrewdness with innocence, uprightness with openness, and speaking the truth with listening in love.

Praise God that we have the expert help of our seminaries and theological institutions in preparing new priests for this challenge. These sacred schools bring together bright academic minds and deep pastoral experience to form new ministers capable of bringing the gospel faithfully and compassionately to every corner of our land. In addition to priests, they also prepare youth workers, church musicians, and Christian-education leaders. These men and women will then offer decades of service in our parishes, enlightening our minds, enriching our worship, and binding up our brokenness.

Each October, as part of “Youth Month and Seminary Month” in our Archdiocese, we ask for donations in support of our seminaries and theological institutions. We are grateful for the generosity shown by our faithful over so many years, and we ask you again to please give generously. Finally, please encourage our young people to pursue vocations in service of the Church, and especially our young men to follow callings to priestly service. May the Lord bless our efforts to train future clergy and church workers.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

**+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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