

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 Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

God willing, this coming summer our teens will have the blessing to host and serve at the 40<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics SOYO Sports Training Camp, providing—free of charge—a week of sports training for over 320 athletes and coaches. Once again, I ask the parishes of our God-protected Archdiocese to generously support this worthy program.

The mission of Special Olympics, as described on their website, “is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.” As is true in any ministry, when we offer the love of Christ to others, we receive so much in return. I have heard from countless young people how their own lives were changed in profound and beautiful ways by serving the athletes of Special Olympics. Please generously support this offering of love by our young people and be a part of the far-reaching transformative impact it has on so many lives.

As you leave church this morning, the teens will offer you a bookmark with an icon of Christ blessing the children. They offer this icon as an expression of their appreciation for your contribution and for you joining them in this sacred ministry that helps them share their blessings with others.

Asking the Lord to bless this fortieth year of our participation in Special Olympics as well as all of you and your loved ones, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive 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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