

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

**Prot. no.:** 117/2024

The Sunday of Orthodoxy March 24, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings to you as we celebrate this glorious Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. We have just completed the difficult first week of Lent. In many ways, this one week is a microcosm of the challenges we face throughout our Christian lives, as we try to live faithfully despite weaknesses within us and trials around us. However, the Lord's words to St. Paul are a comfort to us in every season of our lives: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:19).

Each year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we remember our seminarians, who are studying at residential seminaries and through the Antiochian House of Studies. They are preparing to take up the Cross and follow our Lord on the difficult but rewarding road of priestly ministry. Those whom God calls to ordination will become pastors in our parishes, working with the children, the elderly, and all the faithful, leading them on their journey to the heavenly kingdom. They will stand before the holy altar and offer prayers to the All-Holy Trinity on behalf of us all. They will bring divine grace into all the joys and sorrows of our earthly lives. Therefore, it is our duty to provide them with the best possible education and preparation for this sacred ministry.

Today we ask you to support our dedicated seminarians through your prayers and by making a financial gift toward their theological education. Among the Orthodox in America, our archdiocese is a leader in seminarian support. We strive to provide full scholarships to these qualified men who are studying for the priesthood, and your generous contribution will help to ensure a well-prepared clergy for our future while not burdening our future pastors with excessive debt.

Fervently praying that your Lenten journey will be filled with growth in Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

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