

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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Beloved clergy and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Next year will mark the 45th year that our teens have sponsored and participated in the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. This means we are now in our third generation of this wonderful ministry—an experience that is life-changing not only for the Special Olympians, but also for our teens, who learn from these athletes as they assist them in competition.

Each year, Teen SOYO sponsors—free of charge—a week of joy, fellowship, and faith for over 320 athletes and coaches. This ministry is especially close to my heart, as it puts our faith into action: helping those in need while bearing witness to the Gospel. At the same time, it teaches our youth how to give and how to love. Having spent many years caring for my own brother who was physically challenged, I can only wish that he might have experienced such a beautiful opportunity.

For all these reasons—and because of the ever-increasing costs of providing for these beloved Special Olympians—we ask each year that our faithful help offset the expenses of this outreach of love. In appreciation for your generosity, our teens will once again offer a beautiful icon card. This year's card features Christ the Great High Priest and highlights the theme for our 2026 Parish Life Conferences: “You shall be to Me a Royal Priesthood and a Holy Nation” (Exodus 19:6).

All of us—clergy and laity alike—share in the royal priesthood of Christ. As such, we are called to be examples of love, mercy, compassion, faithfulness, and every virtue. Supporting this ministry is one concrete way of living out our calling to the royal priesthood. With that in mind, I urge you to give generously.

Praying that our Lord will bless all who participate, help, and contribute to this worthy cause, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SABA', with a cross symbol to the left.

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

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