

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. We pray that you enjoyed a peaceful and refreshing summer and that you are diligently engaged as we begin a new ecclesiastical year.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of the arrival of St. Raphael of Brooklyn in North America and the establishment of our Antiochian presence on this continent. The seeds he planted have blossomed, thanks in large part to our dedicated clergy. While most of the early clergy were pious and faithful men whose Orthodox ethos was formed by their families in their homelands without formal theological education, today's clergy are a diverse mixture of men: some who embraced the Orthodox faith as adults, some who immigrated from overseas, and others who were born into Orthodox families here in North America. The common thread among our contemporary clergy is the spiritual formation they receive from their families, parishes, and educational institutions.

With that in mind, we remind you that October in the Antiochian Archdiocese is observed as "Youth Month and Seminary Month." This year, we are blessed with 22 seminarians, most—if not all—of whom will serve this Archdiocese as priests. They will baptize and/or chrismate catechumens, raise up the youth in the faith, educate the laity, comfort the sorrowful, visit the sick, restore the penitent, and heal the broken-hearted. Supporting our future clergy and the institutions that provide their education and formation is vital to the spiritual health of our parishes and ministries. St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's, Holy Cross, and our own Antiochian House of Studies need our help to equip these future priests with the tools necessary for proper education and formation.

We live in a pluralistic society where our faith and values are constantly under attack and scrutiny. We need soldiers of Christ to confront the negative trends that affect our youth by instilling in them an Orthodox ethos and a distinctly Orthodox way of life and thinking. Likewise, as we welcome more inquirers thirsting for the truth, we must have competent and educated clergy and lay leaders who can answer their questions and guide them into the faith. To that end, we humbly ask for your generous support of our seminarians and the institutions that educate them.

May our Lord continue to bless you and your families.

Your Father in Christ,

+SABA

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

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