

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” Is 40:8

Dear Reverend Fathers and Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of Our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we celebrate forty years of camping at the Antiochian Village, we rejoice in the efforts we have made to engage our youth in the life of the Church. In addition to our camping programs, we have the Bible Bowl and Oratorical Festivals. Year after year, these competitions have introduced our young people to the profound joy of meeting the person of the Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, through engaging the Holy Scriptures.

In honor of the fortieth anniversary of the Village, the theme of this year’s festival is the inscription on the arch that greets all of the campers and staff: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” By teaching them to encounter Christ through these activities, our young people will learn where their true strength lies as they navigate the many challenges and difficulties they face growing up in our secular society.

We give thanks for our rich legacy, but we also must commit ourselves each year to preserving this inheritance and making it ever new for each rising generation – never letting these programs grow stagnant or become routine. Let us put all of our minds and hearts into making this year and every year more God-pleasing and beautiful than the last.

Wishing you all of God’s blessings, 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 long, sweeping stroke.

+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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