



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Archpastoral Directive**

To all Clergy, Members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, Parish Councils, and Faithful of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America:

Greetings and Blessings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Archdiocesan Synod was convened in a special meeting by telephone conference, and all seven of the hierarchs who are members of the Synod were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to resolve the issue of the status of the bishops in the Archdiocese of North America. The Archdiocesan Synod, by a two-thirds majority, approved the titles which are to be used for our bishops. These titles reflect two important realities within our Archdiocese. First, that our bishops are indeed bishops of a specific city. Second, that we are one Archdiocese which is unified under one Metropolitan. As such, our bishops have the role of assistant to the Metropolitan in the administration of our unified Archdiocese. The titles of the bishops are as follows:

+ANTOUN,	Bishop of Miami and Assistant to The Metropolitan
+JOSEPH,	Bishop of Los Angeles and Assistant to The Metropolitan
+BASIL,	Bishop of Wichita and Assistant to The Metropolitan
+THOMAS,	Bishop of Charleston/Oakland and Assistant to The Metropolitan
+MARK,	Bishop of Toledo and Assistant to The Metropolitan
+ALEXANDER,	Bishop of Ottawa and Assistant to The Metropolitan

In addition, the following two decisions were approved by the members of the Archdiocesan Synod:

1. That the commemoration of the bishops is to be restored immediately to what it was before The Archpastoral Directive dated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. That is, effective immediately, both the Metropolitan and the bishop are to be commemorated in all divine services, regardless of whether or not the bishop is physically present.
2. That, as soon as is practicable, the Manual of Hierarchical Duties and Responsibilities will be updated to reflect these and other decisions.

It is expected that all clergy will strictly adhere to this directive. I look forward to greeting you all at the Archdiocese Convention in Palm Desert, California.

Your father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip", written in a cursive style.

Metropolitan PHILIP  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America