The Most Reverend
Metropolitan PHILIP

Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All North
America

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA

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# Archpastoral Directive

To all Clergy of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America:

We greet you in the Spirit of this Great Lent.

Some of our clergy have inquired about hierarchical commemorations in the divine services. In order to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding, we would like to direct your attention to the following:

On February 24th, 2009 the Holy Synod of Antioch amended Chapter VI of the by-laws of the Patriarchate, which now reads:

**Article 76**

The Metropolitan is the point of reference of all bishops in his Archdiocese and they are under his authority.

**Article 77**

All bishops within the Antiochian See are auxiliary bishops and are directly under their spiritual authority.

**Article 78**

The Metropolitan defines the responsibilities of the bishops and the place where they should serve. The bishop does not do anything contrary to the will of the Metropolitan.

Therefore, in accordance with the decision of the Holy Synod of Antioch, the following is the proper order for the commemoration of hierarchs in the divine services:

- The clergy should commemorate the Metropolitan in all divine services.
- The clergy should commemorate the auxiliary bishop when he is present at the divine service.

It is expected that all clergy will strictly adhere to this directive. May your journey to the Empty Tomb bring you all the joy of the Glorious Resurrection.

Your father in Christ,

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