

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 112/2024

March 16, 2024

To my sons and daughters, the youth of this blessed Archdiocese,

It is my joy to address you on the occasion of the Orthodox Youth Day (March 16):

You are the blossoms of the Church, how delightful is the flower with its fragrant scent.

You are the dynamism of the Church, and how many dreams lie before you to become reality with your youthful capabilities.

You are in the age of zeal and vitality, so may you use your energies in the service of your souls, not just your bodies and minds.

You are the hope of the Church because you are its future, and how many great deeds have been achieved by individuals like you.

I dream of you as strong in grace and insightful in the matters of your lives.

I dream of you as brave in facing evil, and enthusiastic in supporting what is good.

I dream of you as rejectors of what is presented to you for imitation, and examining everything before adopting it.

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

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I dream of you as distinguishing between the behaviors of a world that is not inspired by God, and the behaviors required by the Gospel.

I dream of you as humble and fruitful trees, and as upright as cypress trees, brave, fearing nothing, because through Christ you can overcome the world.

I dream of you being successful and excelling in your lives, so that your church will be proud of you, and the name of your Lord may be glorified wherever you go.

I dream of you seeking your salvation and placing Christ above everything else.

I dream of you as saints, for your calling is nothing less than this.

I encourage you to delve deeper into your faith and examine the validity of things presented today as if they are necessary or not.

I encourage you to find true and lasting joy in the embrace of your church and be assured that there is no joy or peace except in living in the sweet presence of your Christ.

I encourage you to experience the sweetness and power of living with Christ that makes the mountains dance.

I know how much evil awaits you,

And how many challenges you face,

And I also know, my beloved, that you need courage to be true Christians.

But I also know that your Christianity deserves this courage.

Or else the world is heading towards more slavery, despair, and coldness.

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I encourage you to ignite your hearts with pure love and lit up the world around you and warm it.

You are the ones who will warm the world, or else woe to us all.

May God bless you and keep you,

With all my love, my prayers, and blessings.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a period following the name.

+**SABA**

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