



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: PV026/2022

December 15, 2022

To the Venerable Hierarchs, All Reverend Clergy, Archdiocesan Trustees, Parish Councils, and Faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This letter serves as our official notice for the 2023 Special Convention. The call for this convention is consistent with the provisions of the Antiochian Patriarchate and the Archdiocesan Constitutions in conjunction with a vacancy in the Metropolitan See. This Special Convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas, Texas (located inside DFW Airport, American Airlines, Terminal C) on Friday, January 13, 2023. The General Assembly will meet in the grand ballroom from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

We would like to direct your attention to the following important matters:

1. All parishes and missions are required to send official delegates to vote on behalf of their communities. Each pastor is entitled to one vote. All parishes and missions are entitled to one vote for each one hundred members, or fraction of one hundred that exceeds fifty members. The official Census Report that they submitted as of February 25, 2022 is used to determine this number. *Parishes who did not submit a count by age for the last four years will be set to one vote.* Please submit the names of your official delegates to the Department of Statistics and Credentials electronically to Fr. Paul Matar at frpaul@antiochian.org, using the upcoming PDF form. If necessary, you may assign your votes by proxy. All delegate forms and proxy forms must be returned by **Monday, December 26, 2022.**

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T na.patvicar@gmail.com (201) 871-7954 F

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PROXY SIGNATURES MUST BE
NOTARIZED BY A CERTIFIED/LICENSED NOTARY PUBLIC.
FAILURE TO DO THIS WILL RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE
FORMS.**

2. All Reverend Clergy and delegates must be in Dallas no later than Thursday evening, January 12, 2023. This will ensure that we can begin our Special Assembly promptly at 10:00 a.m. sharp on January 13. Ballots will be distributed Friday Morning from 8:00am till 9:30 am exclusively. Details on time slots per Diocese to follow.
3. In order for communities to be seated at this Special Nominating Convention, parishes must have paid 80% of their entire 2022 assessments and all three Special Trays in full.
4. It is the sacred obligation of the clergy and lay delegates to attend this Special Convention. It is also the sacred duty of every Parish Council to pay the expenses for their pastor to attend this Special Convention.
5. The following items are enclosed/(or to follow) with this letter:
 - (a) The schedule for the Special Convention
 - (b) A list of names and biographies for the eligible candidates for the office of Metropolitan.*
 - (c) A form on which parishes will list the names of the authorized delegates from their parishes or missions. Only these people will be permitted to register for the Special Convention and to be present in the Special Assembly. *(to follow)*
 - (d) An official proxy form for the purpose of legally assigning a vote to another person if the delegate in question will not be attending the Convention. *(to follow)*
6. All delegates attending this Special Convention will pay a registration fee of \$50 to cover the expenses for this Special Convention. They will be issued registration badges. These and a photo ID will be required in order to enter the Special Assembly.

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7. Register online at <https://www.antiochianevents.org/event/archdiocese-special-nominating-convention/>. No registrations will be accepted at the Special Convention. The hotel reservation deadline for the discounted rate is January 4, 2023.

This Special Convention is an historic event in the life of this God-protected Archdiocese. Please prepare yourselves to participate fully in the work which is about to be accomplished.

Praying that our Lord will bless your preparations, and your travel to Dallas, we remain,

Yours in the Merciful Lord,



+ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek and Dependencies

Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

*Note: The following list of candidates contains all names of eligible clergyman who have served for some time in our archdiocese, and whose names appear on the approved list of the Holy Synod of Antioch.

There are some celibate priests of our archdiocese whose names do not appear. This is because, each year, every Metropolitan of the Holy Synod is asked to update the list of eligible candidates for hierarch by submitting new names along with the appropriate documentation. The Holy Synod reviews, and then approves the new names to be added to the list during their meetings. Therefore, if a name does not appear, it is because it was not submitted.

Additionally, during the meeting of the Archdiocesan bishops and Temporary Operating Committee with His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X at Balamand Monastery in November, the possibility of moving an existing Metropolitan to the Archdiocese of North America was discussed. With that in mind, the Archdiocese Board of Trustees added the names of Metropolitans who have served and/or visited our archdiocese in some capacity in the past and who agreed to have their names included.

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**List of Candidates for Nomination to the Office of Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All North America**

1. Metropolitan Saba (Isber) of Houran
2. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)
3. Bishop Alexander (Mufarrij)
4. Bishop John (Abdalah)
5. Bishop Anthony (Michaels)
6. Bishop Nicholas (Ozone)
7. Archimandrite Fadi (Rabbat)
8. Archimandrite Maximos (Jamal)
9. Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)
10. Archimandrite Michael (Razzouk)

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