

March 29, 2014
03/004

His Beatitude JOHN X
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
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Your Beatitude, dear Brother and Concelebrant in the Lord:

It is with profound grief that we have learned of the passing of our brother, Metropolitan Philip, of blessed memory, who has carried out zealous service as the shepherd of the children of the Patriarchate of Antioch for over forty years. The Church here in America has been bereaved of an outstanding pastor and inspired visionary who made evangelization and Christian witness the cornerstone of his episcopal ministry.

Metropolitan Philip's tireless efforts to unite and build up the community of Antiochian Orthodox Christians, his search for unity, mutual understanding, and collaboration with other Orthodox Churches, and his work at St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's Seminaries for the building up of theological education here in America have gained him a well-deserved respect in North America and throughout the world.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip was a great friend to the Orthodox Church in America, her hierarchs, clergy and faithful. We were bound by our common task to engage and evangelize North America. I remember with great fondness my visit to His Eminence upon being elected to the Primatial See of the Orthodox Church in America. Our time together, his brotherly love and fatherly advice were testimony to his care for our common witness as Orthodox bishops and for the common witness of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and the Orthodox Church in America.

May the All-Merciful Lord give rest to the soul of His servant Metropolitan Philip, and may his memory be eternal!

Your Brother and concelebrant in the Holy Mysteries,



+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada