

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

April 26, 2017

To: All Pastors and Parish Councils of our Parishes

Re: Sacred Music Institute

Beloved in the Lord,

Christ is Risen!

I pray you and your families had a joyous Pascha. Once again the spring is upon us and we are preparing for our various Parish Life Conferences, the Archdiocese Convention, the camping season for our children, and other important gatherings this summer. One of the most important of these gatherings is the Summer Sacred Music Institute from July 12-16, 2017 at the Antiochian Village under the direction of our Chairman of the Department of Sacred Music, Mr. Paul Jabara. It is at this institute that our choirs and chanters learn more and more each year about forming a choir, increasing participation, improving their singing and chanting ability, and conducting services. In addition, they become better familiar with the structure of our services and are introduced to new musical settings and new initiatives going on throughout the archdiocese.

Because of the importance of this annual conference, last year I mandated that each parish must send participants. Of course, the logical people to send would be the choir director and the head chanter, but I encourage anyone who is a leader in music or who wants to learn more to go and participate. As a result of this mandate last year, the attendance doubled. This allowed for more ideas, more participation, and better sharing. Let us strive this year for every parish to send people to make this institute an even greater experience for all.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Paschal season, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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