

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America

Metropolitan Tikhon, *Locum Tenens of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese*
Igumen Nikodhim (Preston), *Chancellor*
Very Rev Arthur E. Liolin *Chancellor Emeritus*

February 11, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To the Distinguished Members of the Albanian Archdiocesan Council,

The blessing of the Lord be upon all of you!

With this letter, I would like to inform the Archdiocesan Council of a number of actions I have taken as your *Locum Tenens*. These actions are intended to assure the effective administrative functioning of the Albanian Archdiocese and to carry forward the most excellent work of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, of blessed memory.

Chief among His Eminence's collaborators has been Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin who has served as an advisor to bishops, a mentor to clergy, and a father to the faithful. I know that all of you are aware of his valuable contributions and there is no doubt that he will ever remain as a father to us all.

On Saturday, February 6, 2021, I met in person with Father Arthur and conveyed to him my plan for the administration of the Albanian Archdiocese. As part of that plan, I requested that Fr. Arthur relinquish his administrative responsibilities, which of late have become difficult for him to fulfill, so that others might carry forward his work and his legacy. In gratitude for his yeoman contributions and sacrifices on behalf of us all and in recognition of his unparalleled stature I appointed Fr. Arthur as Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese. He will retain all the liturgical honors that are due him as the chief Protopresbyter of the Albanian Archdiocese.

As part of the above-mentioned administrative plan, which Fr. Arthur has fully endorsed, I appointed Igumen Nikodhim (Preston) as interim Chancellor for the Albanian Archdiocese, effective February 11, 2021. This appointment is for the defined period of 12-18 months, to be reviewed every 6 months by me. Fr. Nikodhim is to report to me directly as the *Locum Tenens* and to work in collaboration with the other members of the Chancery Administration, especially the Secretary, Archpriest Joseph Gallick, and the Lay Chairman, Michael Gregory. In addition, I have encouraged him to draw upon the experience and wisdom of Fr. Arthur.

I am prepared to discuss these changes in more detail with the Archdiocesan Council at our upcoming meeting on February 25, 2021. Above all, I would like to thank the members of the Archdiocesan Council for their work in maintaining the life of the Albanian Church following the repose of our father in Christ, Archbishop Nikon.

I ask you all now to accord to Fr. Nikodhim the same honor and respect which you accorded to Fr. Arthur so that he may maintain the same level of administrative and pastoral oversight as his

predecessor. I recognize that the Archdiocese remains in an interim period but I am confident that with your prayerful support of Fr Nikodhim and your own faithful and professional contributions, we will continue to strengthen the life of the Albanian Archdiocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Tikhon', written in a cursive style.

+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

cc: Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus
Archpriest Joseph Gallick, Secretary
Michael Gregory, Lay Chair
Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor, Orthodox Church in America