The HOLY SYNOD
of the
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

May 7, 2020

Very Rev. Archpriest Arthur Liolin
Chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese
60 Antwerp Street
East Milton, Massachusetts 02186-5005

Very Reverend and Dear Father Arthur:
Christ is Risen! – Indeed He is Risen!

This letter is to inform you that at its meeting on May 1, 2020, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America discussed the matter of the widowed Albanian Archdiocese, presently under the guidance of the Primate, His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, who is serving as Locum Tenens.

Relevant to this matter, Article VIII, Section 7.b of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America states: *"Should the election of a new Diocesan Bishop be delayed for an extraordinary length of time, the Holy Synod may authorize the Locum Tenens to assume additional authority proper to a Diocesan Bishop, as required by the best interests and continuing welfare of the Diocese."*

Therefore, as stated in the minutes of the May 1 meeting of the Holy Synod: *"In accordance with the provision found in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, Article VIII, Section 7.b, the Holy Synod decided to authorize His Beatitude to assume additional authority proper to a Diocesan Bishop within the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese. The Holy Synod will revisit this decision at its regular Autumn meeting in November 2020."*

It is our prayer that you as Chancellor and all the clergy and faithful of the Albanian Archdiocese will continue to work under the guidance of His Beatitude in the day-to-day operations of the Archdiocese and in the search, vetting and eventual election of a new ruling hierarch to succeed His Eminence, the late Archbishop NIKON of blessed memory.

With love in the Risen Christ,

+ Michael

+ Michael
Archbishop of New York
Secretary of the Holy Synod

Cc: His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON
Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor

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