



February 11, 2020  
02/013

St. George Church  
5490 Main St  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611-2932

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! Krishti midis nesh!

After the falling asleep in the Lord of His Eminence, the ever-memorable Archbishop Nikon, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America named me the locum tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese during this period of mourning and transition.

As the Holy Synod of Bishops now prayerfully looks for direction from the Holy Spirit in finding episcopal leadership for the Albanian Archdiocese, I turn now to you, the parishes of the Archdiocese, at this time. Although I know some about the long history of the Albanian Archdiocese, and was privileged to know through Archbishop Nikon of recent archdiocesan life and activities, I wish to have greater insight into the life of each parish community.

To this end, I have directed Hieromonk Nikodhim of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, Jamaica Estates, NY, to compile a detailed study of the Archdiocese and its parishes which will aid the Holy Synod in its work toward naming a worthy successor in the work to which your previous archbishop gave himself so faithfully. In addition, I have also asked Fr. Nikodhim to prepare the annual diocesan report that would be, under normal circumstances, completed by the diocesan bishop prior to the spring session of the Holy Synod.

As you receive this note, please anticipate contact from Fr. Nikodhim. Please offer him every assistance so that he may swiftly complete the study and report. Should you have any questions or concerns, I invite you to reach out to your archdiocesan chancellor, V. Rev. Arthur Liolin, as well as the chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, V. Rev. Alexander Rentel.

With archpastoral blessings and intercessions on your behalf,

+ TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese

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