



ANTIOCHIAN HOUSE *of* STUDIES

1020 BASELINE ROAD • LA VERNE • CALIFORNIA 91750

web: www.ahos.edu phone: 909.928.2247 email: info@ahos.edu

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“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give an account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17 - OSB)

Your Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East;

Your Eminence Metropolitan Antonios of Zahle, Baalbek and Dependencies, and Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America;

Your Graces, the Auxiliary Bishops of our Archdiocese;

Esteemed members of the Board of Trustees;

All reverend brothers, clergy, parish councils, and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese:

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Greetings in the Name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray my letter finds you well, healthy, and safe.

Recently, the Antiochian Archdiocese officially sent the list of candidates for nomination to the Office of Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America. I would like to thank our Patriarchal Vicar, His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, and the Archdiocese Board of Trustees for honoring my modesty by including my name on the list. Indeed, I am grateful.

After reading the names of the other candidates, especially those in the sacred episcopacy, I have decided, at this moment, to withdraw my name from the list in respect of their seniority.

My clerical education will not allow me to compete with any of our beloved hierarchs and elders. It reminds me what was said in Job 32:6 (OSB): *“Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: ‘I am young in years, and you the elder; therefore, I was silent and dared not declare my knowledge to you.’”* I feel myself humbled before their wisdom and experience. At this moment, I believe I can be more effective at The Antiochian House of Studies as dean and professor, as well as pastor of St. George Church in El Paso, Texas.

In obedience to the Holy Synod of Antioch, presided by our beloved Patriarch John X, I will be a faithful servant and a real supporter to whom the Holy Spirit would elect to be the next Metropolitan of our God-protected Archdiocese.

Wishing all the best for the other candidates, I remain,

Your servant in Christ,

Archimandrite Fadi Rabbat

Dean of The Antiochian House of Studies

Pastor of St. George Church of El Paso, Texas