

Translated from the Russian

No. 01/2286

13th May 2023

**HIS EMINENCE SABA
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA**

**Your Eminence,
Dear in the Lord Metropolitan Saba,**

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Please accept my heartfelt greetings and congratulations on your election and enthronement to the See of Metropolitans of North America.

Over a hundred years ago, St. Tikhon of Moscow, back then Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and North America, laid a solid foundation for pastoral work with Orthodox Christian Syrians living in the United States of America. His closest assistant in that good endeavour was his vicar, a native of Damascus, St. Raphael of Brooklyn – an ardent missionary and fervent upholder of the bonds of friendship between the sisterly Church of Antioch and the Russian Church.

Now the All-Wise Divine Providence has entrusted you with the mission of shepherding the large Orthodox community of the Patriarchate of Antioch on the American land. Having a wealth of experience as an archpastor who carried out his service in Syria and vast knowledge of church life in the USA, you are a worthy successor to your predecessors, striving to *set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity* (1 Tim 4:12).

On this memorable day I prayerfully wish to Your Eminence good health and unceasing help from our Lord in your archpastoral ministry, and I wish peace and welfare to your God-loving flock.

With love in the Risen Christ,

**+KIRILL
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA**