

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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May 17, 2026

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

As inaugurated last year, our Archdiocese sets aside the third Sunday of May as Teacher Appreciation Sunday, to remember, honor, and pray for our esteemed church school teachers and directors.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our Christian Education Ministry, including its director, diocesan coordinators, and curriculum writers, who help prepare resources and materials for this vitally important ministry. The work they do is felt throughout our beloved Archdiocese.

Most especially, we extend our gratitude to the church school directors and teachers who labor and serve within their parishes. Thousands of parishioners answer the call each year to dedicate their time, talents, and treasures to educating the children of our Archdiocese in the Orthodox Faith. They faithfully cultivate their gifts, study and contemplate the material they are to teach, prepare lessons and resources, and give of themselves wholeheartedly in imparting knowledge essential for the spiritual growth of Orthodox Christians.

In my youth, God sent me a godly teacher who led me and my companions to discover the patristic and ascetic practices of the Orthodox Tradition. She became a gateway for us to the communion of the saints and the living Gospel. God blessed us then, just as He continues to bless our churches today with men and women who direct our children to Christ. I am sure many of you remember special teachers who played a similar role in your own Christian formation, and it is fitting that we honor them on this day.

We have partnered with our Department of Ancient Faith Ministries to offer a gift to our directors and teachers as a small token of our gratitude for their holy and sacred ministry to our youth.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+SABA

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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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