By the Grace of God,
Zachariah Mar Nicholovos,
Diocesan Metropolitan

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Blessings to the Very Reverend Chor Episcopoi, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons, and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

This year has been one that began with hope as the pandemic began to subside, and life began to have a look of what life was prior to COVID-19. Yet, as soon as we felt comfort and hope, the attacks of the evil one struck once again and brought brothers against one another as seen in the war that has erupted between Russia and Ukraine and the ongoing civil war in Ethiopia. These heartbreaking conflicts, are a sinful tragedy – a result of the fallen world and a refusal of the peace our Lord extends to us.

The Resurrection of Christ promises us peace and tranquility for all eternity. Our Lord even tells us in His Gospel, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

Though it seems that we are constantly surrounded by conflict, Christ has overcome all those things through His Resurrection, and promises to also provide us that peace if we attach ourselves to Him. This is the peace that Christians strive for – a peace that cannot be shaken, cannot be broken, and is life everlasting. Holding onto the peace that only God can provide, we pray for all those who are at strife with one another, nations, states, communities, families, friends and even churches.

May the light and peace we receive from this Feast, illumine our clergy and faithful. May all of us joyfully witness the Resurrection of our Lord by being vehicles of His peace to those around us. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan