



By the Grace of God

METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS

CK No. 26/2024

December 20, 2024

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

Dearly beloved,

Our society as a whole is filled with the joy of this sacred season which celebrates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It reminds us of the unity we share in Christ, Who humbled Himself to take on our humanity so that we might partake in His divinity.

It is from the manger of Bethlehem the infant Messiah offers each of us an invitation to be messengers of reconciliation and unity. The world around us can be divided, but we are called to reflect the oneness of the Holy Trinity in our relationships and ministries just as our Lord prayed for us, “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You” (John 17:21).

Let us as a Diocese look towards this Feast to renew ourselves to foster communion and understanding within our parishes and the greater community fulfilling the exhortation of Saint Paul, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). By embracing the love of Christ, we can overcome barriers and build bridges of compassion and mutual respect.

We are called to lead by example in promoting unity and peace, while being rooted in our faith. Let us work together for the common good by going beyond the boundaries of our parish communities, and foster meaningful relationships with the greater community. In doing so, we manifest the Kingdom of God on earth and offer a witness to the transformative power of the Gospel which is beyond all understanding.

As we welcome the New Year, let us renew our commitment to serve with humility and love. May our communities experience the power of this Feast through a deeper communion with Him and with one another, so we can help our society navigate the challenges of our time and guide them back to Christ the Savior of our souls!

Wishing each and everyone of you a joyous Nativity and a blessed New Year!

Yours in our Lord,

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos