



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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**To be Read from Pulpits and Published in Bulletins**

January 18, 2014

Beloved Clergy and Laity in Christ,

Blessings and greetings to you in the name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch met in Balamand in a regular session during October 15-17, 2013 and made the following decision regarding the crisis between our Patriarchate and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem:

”قرر المجمع الأنطاكي المقدس:

2. التعليق الفوري لمشاركة الكنيسة الأنطاكية في المجالس الأسقفية في بلاد الانتشار (Diaspora) وذلك حتى إيجاد حل لهذه الأزمة.“

and the decision is translated to English as follows:

The Holy Synod of Antioch Decided:

2. the immediate suspension of participation of the Antiochian church in all the Assemblies of Bishops abroad until a solution is developed for this crisis.

In compliance with the aforementioned decision, all our bishops **and all Antiochians --including priests, deacons, monastics, lay men and lay women--** of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America are instructed to immediately suspend all participations in any form of activity of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America and all its committees and subcommittees by resigning at once from the said Assembly. This directive does not include OCF, IOCC, OCEC, local Deanery meetings, Annual Camping and Youth Workers Conference, Orthodox Camping Association, Jurisdictional Youth Directors meetings, and local cooperation with other jurisdictions.

While I wish all of you a wonderful New Year,

I Remain in Christ,

+Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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