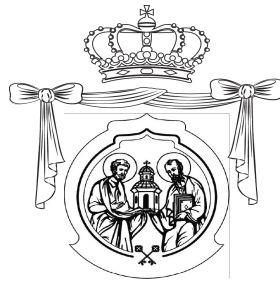


His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop THOMAS



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Oakland, Charleston,
and the Mid-Atlantic

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Paschal Greeting - 2022

Beloved brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, God-fearing Monastics, and all my Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ our True God:

“Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!”

I greet you with great joy as we have come to this glorious day of the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. On this day we proclaim, in the words of St. Symeon the New Theologian, “the truth, that the resurrection of Christ takes place in each of us who believes, and that not once, but every hour,” bringing to life what was once dead in us and reviving our souls by his resurrection power as we open our lives to him. St. Symeon, one of three saints in the Orthodox Church that have been given the title ‘theologian’, invites us into a clear vision of resurrection of our Lord in the following text:

A Clear Vision of Christ's Resurrection

By St. Symeon the New Theologian

Most men believe in the resurrection of Christ, but very few have a clear vision of it. ...That most sacred formula which is daily on our lips does not say, “Having believed in Christ’s resurrection,” but, “Having beheld Christ’s resurrection, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, who alone is without sin.” How then does the Holy Spirit urge us to say, “Having beheld Christ’s resurrection,” which we have not seen as though we had seen it, when Christ has risen once for all a thousand years ago, and even then without anybody’s seeing it? Surely Holy Scripture does not wish us to lie? Far from it! Rather, it urges us to speak the truth, that the resurrection of Christ takes place in each of us who believes, and that not once, but every hour, so to speak, when Christ the Master arises in us, resplendent in array and flashing with the lightnings of incorruption and Deity.

For the light-bringing coming of the Spirit shows forth to us, as in early morning, the Master’s resurrection, or, rather, it grants us to see the Risen One Himself. Therefore we say, “The Lord is God, and He has given us light” (Ps. 118:27), and we allude to His second Coming and add these words, “Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord” (Ps. 118:26). Those to whom Christ has given light as He has risen, to them He has appeared spiritually, He has been shown to their spiritual eyes. When this happens to us through the Spirit He raises us up from the dead and gives us life. He grants us to see Him, who is immortal and indestructible. More than that, He grants clearly to know Him who

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

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raises us up (Eph. 2:6) and glorifies us (Rom. 8:17) with Himself, as all the divine Scripture testifies. These, then, are the divine mysteries of Christians. This is the hidden power of our faith, which unbelievers, or those who believe with difficulty, or rather believe in part, do not see nor are able at all to see.

Source: <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/04/clear-vision-of-christs-resurrection.html>

May Christ our true God grant you the spiritual eyes to see, and may he raise you to new life in him as you behold his glorious resurrection. Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Yours in the glorious resurrection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bishop Thomas".

Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS (Joseph)

Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Oakland, Charleston, and the Mid-Atlantic

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