

July 28, 2018 07/035

His Holiness KIRILL Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia 5 Chisty Pereulok Moscow 119034 RUSSIA

Your Holiness,

Dear Brother in Christ:

The celebration of Great Prince Vladimir, Equal to the Apostles coincides with the observance of the 1030th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus. Kievan Rus was the birthplace of Orthodox Christianity in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Consequently, the celebrations of Saint Vladimir and the anniversary of the Baptism of Rus symbolize and express the brotherhood of three sovereign nations. They become fervent prayers for the peace and well-being of three peoples.

In this occasion I express to Your Holiness our love, and assure you of our prayers for you, your Holy Church, and the people of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

I ask for Your Holiness' prayers for the Orthodox Church in America and its mission in North America.

Your brother and concelebrant,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada