

Metropolitan Tikhon's final remarks at the conclusion of the Enthronement Divine Liturgy

I am deeply touched by the gifts and the greetings that have been offered today from His Eminence, Archbishop Justinian. I am grateful for the love and support of His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill and the entire Russian Church, and I ask that you would convey to him our mutual love and respect, and express our desire to continue to foster those good relations that we have had for many years.

And [I thank] His Eminence, Metropolitan Dimitri, for his gracious gift and his words. I had the joy of serving with Patriarch Ilia in 1998, when he visited this country and served in some of the Georgian communities in North America. I look forward to continuing our brotherly relations for the glory of God.

And [I thank] His Grace, Bishop George. Please convey to His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, and all the hierarchs of the Holy Synod. His Grace and I served together on the Commission of the Orthodox Church in America and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, establishing and reestablishing our unity in Christ. We pray that we will continue to do so for the building up of the Church in North America.

And to my brother hierarchs on the Holy Synod; our visiting hierarchs; His Grace, Bishop Nicholas, representing the Antiochian Archdiocese and [sharing] the wonderful relations we have with the Antiochian Archdiocese; and all of my brother hierarchs and clergy who have gathered here: I am moved by your prayers and thankful for your support in all things, and I pray that indeed I will humbly fulfill this task — these tasks. I bear this cross that has been placed upon my shoulders — as you bear your crosses — so that, all together, we may receive that strength from on high, remembering as our Lord tells us, that the yolk He places upon us is light and His burden is easy to bear. So, by His grace, through your prayers, and through our love for one another, may we continue to walk with boldness towards the heavenly Kingdom.

Christ is in our midst!



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