

November 6, 2012

His Holiness Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark
Coptic Orthodox Church

Your Holiness:

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome You as the new successor to St. Mark the Apostle as Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria. Your apostolic ministry dedicates Your life to guiding and protecting the Coptic Church in its witness to the Good News of Christ, to truth and love. The same apostolic ministry will be dedicated to advancing the priority of "living with our brothers, the Muslims" and "the responsibility of preserving our shared life." There is no contradiction between these two aspects of Your witness, since the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ demands of us Christians both faithfulness to the truth and good will, peace, and reconciliation towards all.

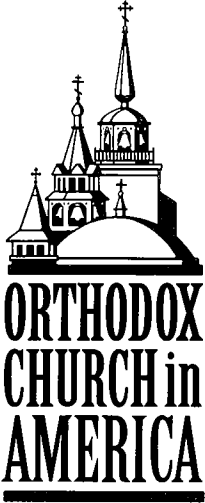
On behalf of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America and the clergy, monastics, and lay people of our Church, I extend to Your Holiness our prayerful best wishes and convey to You our continuing commitment to accompany and support Your Church in its diakonia and martyrria.

With love in the Lord,

Your brother in Christ,



+Nathaniel
Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopae
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See
Orthodox Church in America



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