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About Bishop JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop JOSEPH was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on June 30, 1991 at the St. Mary Cathedral in Damascus. From 1991 to 1995 he served as Bishop of Katana in Syria, Patriarchal Assistant, and Secretary of the Holy Synod of Antioch. He became Auxiliary Bishop in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in 1995 and was assigned to the West Coast Chancery by Metropolitan PHILIP.

When Self-Rule status was awarded to the Archdiocese, His Grace was chosen as bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West. On September 12, 2004 he was enthroned at St. Nicholas Cathedral by Metropolitan PHILIP.

Bishop JOSEPH has served as dean of St. Mary Cathedral in Damascus, Syria and as overseer of Holy Cross Church and other parishes in the suburbs of Damascus. He pastored the

Antiochian Orthodox Church in London from 1983 to 1986 and the Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cyprus in 1986.

Bishop JOSEPH was born in Damascus, Syria on November 2, 1950. He attended the St. John of Damascus and al-Alliyeh schools in Damascus and then the Our Lady of Balamand Monastery in Koura, Lebanon. He received a degree in philosophy from the Lebanese University in Beirut and a degree in music and languages from the University of Salonika in Thessalonike, Greece. In November, 1976, he was ordained a deacon. Patriarch Ignatius IV ordained him a priest in Damascus in 1980.

His namesday is the second Sunday after Pascha (Joseph of Arimathea).

[Photos from Bishop JOSEPH's enthronement.](#)

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