



The Self-Ruled
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

—
His Grace, Bishop MARK

March 5, 2009

The Most Reverend Metropolitan PHILIP
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
358 Mountain Road POB 5238
Englewood, NJ 07631-5238

Your Eminence,

Christ is in our midst! I just received this letter from the V Rev Joseph Antypas; the V Rev George Shalhoub and the V Rev George Baalbaki filled with hatred and malicious slander towards our bishops of this Archdiocese. Their letter was sent throughout the entire Archdiocese. As I mentioned on the phone the action of the Holy Synod and your approval of it could have devastating consequences dividing the emigrant clergy from those born here. As you can see they cannot retain their venom and disrespect. This is what I have endured for four and a half years. Now their animosity and guile, especially towards me has been fully revealed for the whole Archdiocese to see by their own hand.

As the clergy of the Diocese of the Midwest will attest, I have overlooked their refusal to be a part of the Diocese. They have always come to meetings late and left early. They refuse to mix with non-emigrant clergy even before I was consecrated. Their disdain and hatred I have endured. Now they have finally revealed themselves to the whole Archdiocese.

Your eminence for the sake of our Archdiocese, they must write an apology to you for the division they have caused, to all our bishops whom they so freely insulted and to the faithful for the damage they have done. This must be done publicly as their letter was public. Their apology should be posted on the Archdiocesan website and every Diocesan Website as well as in the Word Magazine and Again Magazine to reunite what they have divided. Over the past years I have made numerous attempts to work with them and suffered insults time and again. I have asked what I have done to them. The answer was always, "there is nothing wrong." I have left them to their own devices never commenting on the church sponsored gambling and their disdain of their own Orthodox Christian Traditions, such as serving the required liturgical services and observing the fasts of our Holy Church. Let us have peace!

Your unworthy brother in Christ,

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