

The Most Reverend
Metropolitan PHILIP



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All North
America

The Right Reverend
THOMAS

Bishop of Charleston, Oakland
and Mid-Atlantic Diocese

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA
The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic

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Paschal Greeting 2008

Your Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, Beloved Hierarchs of this God-protected Archdiocese, Reverend Clergy, and all the Faithful of our Archdiocese:

“Be thou amazed, O heaven, and let the foundations of the earth quake; for behold, he who dwelleth in the highest hath been accounted among the dead, and hath been Guest in a humble tomb. Wherefore, O ye youths, bless him. Praise him, ye Priests; and ye nations, exalt him more and more unto all ages.

The pure Temple hath been destroyed, then rising, he raised with him the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam who dwelleth in the highest hath descended unto the first Adam in the uttermost chambers of hades. Wherefore, ye youths, bless him. Praise him, ye Priests; and ye nations, exalt him more and more unto all the ages.

The courage of the Disciples hath come to its end. But Joseph of Ramah hath shown great valour; for beholding the God of all dead and naked, he sought him and arrayed him, shouting, O ye youths, bless him. Praise him ye Priests; and ye nations, exalt him more and more unto the end of ages.

O what dazzling wonders! O what endless goodness! O what ineffable endurance! For he that dwelleth in the highest is sealed up under the earth by his own will. God is slandered as a misleader. Wherefore, O ye youths, bless him. Praise him, ye priests, and ye nations, exalt him yet more and more to the end of ages” (Matins of Holy Saturday Morning).

Indeed, it is my prayer that all of us will continually exalt Him yet more and more to the end of the ages. I pray that this mystical Lenten journey will bring us all closer to God and that the coming Pascha will provide passage from sinfulness to perfection and from death to Life. May God bless you and grant you all many years of health and happiness.

Unworthily, I ask for your holy prayers during this holy season.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop THOMAS
Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic