

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

December, 2016

Blessings and greetings to you in the Name of our Incarnate Lord. As the Nativity Season approaches, we must remember that this Incarnation “breathed life into a dying species,” as quoted from the first American-made feature film about the Orthodox faith.

This film, *Becoming Truly Human*, is a joint effort of the Archdiocesan program of the same name, along with our media arm, Ancient Faith Ministries. In the documentary we learn about what is sadly one of the fastest growing groups in America, the spiritually unaffiliated. We also learn the story of Basil, who shares at the beginning that he is “no longer spiritually unaffiliated,” and we get to see and hear of his journey to the Orthodox Faith.

I recently watched the film, and was so impressed with its high quality in both cinematography and content. I am happy to share that it is currently being considered for widespread distribution as well as film festival screenings. More importantly for the film’s original purpose, it is the material presented in the “Becoming Truly Human” ministry and a wonderful genesis for the discussion which allows us to get to know people outside our parish. This ministry prepares all of us, both clergy and laity, to be a light to the people around us, wherever that happens to be across this vast continent.

St. Paul taught us much about the missionary work of Christ’s Church. He taught the importance of understanding the people with whom we seek to share the Gospel when he said, “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” As your Metropolitan, I encourage all of you to consider this ministry as an important part of your parish life. You can begin by contacting the “Becoming Truly Human” Administrator, Subdeacon Adam Lowell Roberts (adamr@antiochian.org, 615-971-0000) or the Director, Fr. Michael Nasser (frmichaeln@gmail.com, 616-216-3537).

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+JOSEPH

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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F