Byzantine Chant Tone 1
Special Melody: What a marvelous wonder
(Ω τού παραδόξου Θαύματος)

Bishop BASIL (Essey)

O holy Father Raphael, thou didst incarnate the love of Christ Jesus from thy youth, O son of the Church of Antioch sent to America.

Not being concerned with thine own ease, thou wast apostle to the lost sheep of Syria. From holy Russia thou didst come, trav'ling from East to the West and from the North to South, and didst give thyself no repose, but labored night and day. As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to save our souls.

Thou didst conduct thine affairs like a good shepherd, traveling by land and sea. Thou didst

cross plains and mountains, and didst roam near and far in search of Christ's lost sheep. To bind their wounds with thy

fatherly and Christ-like love, and carry them in thine arms, and reunite them to the holy flock of

Christ, thou didst bear the heat and labor of day, and the chill and length of night. As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to save our souls.

Orthodox believers found in thee, O good shepherd Raphael,
sustenance for their souls, and admonition for the
lost and a defense against their foes. Thou
didst not view the obstacles, but kept thine eyes upon the
prize and high call of God. While counting all things as naught
thou didst suffer loss in order to find Christ.
Offring up thy life for thy flock, thou art now glorified.
As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to
save our souls.