



Remarks of His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph  
on the Occasion of the Dinner which was held  
at the Archdiocese Headquarters to Welcome  
Our Father in Christ Patriarch John X  
July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On behalf of His Grace Nicholas, Bishop of Brooklyn and the resident auxiliary bishop and Mr. Fawaz El Khoury, Vice Chairman of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees I welcome this evening our Father in Christ Patriarch John X, and thank him for the time and effort which he has made to be with us during this visit to his spiritual children in this land. I also welcome those who have travelled with him:

His Eminence Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Sao Paulo and all of Brazil

His Eminence Saba, Metropolitan of Bosra  
Houran and Jebel al-Arab

His Eminence Ephrem, Metropolitan of Tripoli,  
Al-Koura and Dependencies

His Grace Gregorios, Bishop of The Emirates  
and Patriarchal Auxiliary Bishop

Archimandrite Parthenios, Secretary to the  
Patriarch

Archdeacon Gerasimos, Archdeacon to the  
Patriarch

I also welcome the honored Christian and  
Muslim spiritual leaders who are here, as well  
as the diplomats, dignitaries, and guests who  
are working so diligently for peace.

We have had the honor and privilege of hosting  
our Father in Christ Patriarch John X during his  
visit here as he presided over our historic

Convention in Boston last week. He has brought with him his consistent message of love, unity, and solidarity with our neighbors, regardless of their ethnic background or their religious beliefs. He spares no effort as he labors diligently for peace in Syria, Lebanon, and the entire region.

We proclaim the powerful common ground that we share which is love of God and love of neighbor. As His Beatitude Patriarch John X has said on many occasions, our life is fulfilled only when we behold our neighbor face to face and treat him with the love and respect that he deserves. He has put before us the belief of the atheist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre who said “Hell is other people” in sharp contrast with our belief that my neighbor is my joy. His Beatitude has made it clear that the people of Syria do not need protection, but rather peace and

absence of interference from foreign mercenaries and their sponsors. If left alone, the people of Syria are very capable of solving their own problems and creating a bright future for all Syrian citizens. For many years before the violence began, Syria was a place of tolerance, peace, and a safe haven for the oppressed people from many other neighboring countries.

We are here tonight to welcome His Beatitude and all of you and I thank you all for making the time to be with us in this home which will always be open to you. Although we come from different cultures and faiths we share many common values.

His Beatitude will return to the Middle East tomorrow and he will take with him our prayers for peace in Syria and the entire region that all

people may live with dignity without interference from outsiders. May our merciful and loving God watch over him and all of those who have been placed under his care.