

September 4, 2008

To the Very Reverend, and Reverend Clergy, and Monastics  
of the Diocese of Washington and New York

Dear Fathers:

Christ is in our midst.

On this day, His Beatitude, HERMAN, Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All America, and Canada voluntarily requested of the Holy Synod of Bishops for retirement for medical reasons. He did this, as he wrote, "in the best interests of The Orthodox Church in America, and taking into consideration the current condition of my health." It is to be remembered that Metropolitan HERMAN will receive surgery on his spine on September 9, and that the convalescence may be lengthy. The Holy Synod resolved to grant this request. In addition, "The Holy Synod of Bishops resolved that, in retirement, the title will be 'Former Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.'"

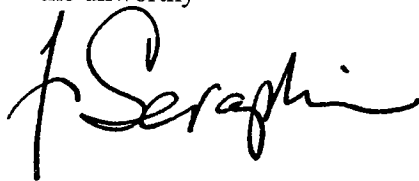
On this day, therefore, the Holy Synod of Bishops also resolved to appoint His Eminence, DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South as Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See, that is, the Diocese of Washington and New York. We encourage your prayers for His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI as he assumes the additional responsibilities we have entrusted to him.

In accordance with canonical order, and accepted liturgical practice, in liturgical commemorations, in the Litanies, Archbishop DMITRI is to be commemorated in this manner: "For His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI...". At the Great Entrance, and at "Among the first....", he is to be commemorated in this manner: "For His Eminence, DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See...".

On this day also, the Holy Synod of Bishops resolved to appoint His Eminence, SERAPHIM, Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada, as Administrator of The Orthodox Church in America, in order to assist the Locum Tenens.

Conveying the blessings and prayers of the Members of the Holy Synod of Bishops for the God-protected Diocese of Washington and New York, I remain, in Christ,  
yours,

the unworthy



+SERAPHIM  
Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada,  
Secretary of the Holy Synod of Bishops

