

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
ANNOUNCEMENT – ПОВІДОМЛЕННЯ



On the Falling Asleep in the Lord
His Eminence Metropolitan Philip of Blessed Memory!
June 10 1931-March 19, 2014

WINNIPEG, MB. It is with a profound depth of sadness and prayer that the Office of Communications of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada prayerfully announces the repose on the evening of March 19, 2014 of His Eminence Metropolitan Philip (Saliba), Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Metropolitan Philip leaves a legacy as a respected theologian, academic and archpastor in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. He was born on June 10, 1931, in the small village of Abou Mizan in Lebanon. He completed his primary education at the Shouier Elementary School, then, at 14, he entered the Balamand Orthodox Seminary, near Tripoli, Lebanon. He subsequently attended and graduated from the Orthodox Secondary School in Homs, Syria, and the Assiyeh Orthodox College in Damascus, Syria. Ordained to the holy diaconate in 1949, he was assigned to serve as secretary to His Beatitude, Alexander III (Tahan), Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. In 1952, he was appointed lecturer in Arabic language and literature and student advisor at the Balamand Orthodox Seminary. While a deacon, Metropolitan Philip was awarded a scholarship and invitation to study in Great Britain at the Kelham Theological School and the University of London

In 1956, he arrived in the United States and enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. Assigned to a position at St. George Church in Detroit, Michigan, he later graduated from Wayne State University with a BA degree in 1959. On March 1, 1959, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by Metropolitan Antony (Bashir) and

assigned to the pastorate at Saint George Church in Cleveland, Ohio. While serving in this capacity, he saw through the building of an educational and cultural center for the parish, and also served on many religious and civic posts while in Cleveland. He undertook graduate theological studies at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1965. In March of 1966, he was nominated to succeed the late Metropolitan Antony (Bashir) as Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America. Later that year he was elevated to Archimandrite.

On August 14, 1966 Metropolitan Philip was consecrated to the episcopacy by Patriarch Theodosios VI (Abourjaily) in Dhour Shouier, Lebanon. He was enthroned at his Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in Brooklyn, New York, on October 13, 1966. Metropolitan Philip took a keen interest in Middle Eastern affairs and is recognized as an expert in this field. He met with many world leaders on behalf of peace in the Middle East and initiated many fund-raising campaigns to provide food, shelter and medical assistance to Arab refugees and victims of war. For his many charitable deeds and renowned humanitarian concern, Metropolitan Philip received commendations from many governments and institutions.

Metropolitan Philip served as First Vice Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, Vice President and Vice Chairman of Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Orthodox Christian Education Commission. Metropolitan Philip presided over historic events in the Church. In 1975 he was named as Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America following the administrative and jurisdictional unity of the Antiochian Orthodox faithful in North America. In 2003, the Holy Synod of Antioch granted the request of the Archdiocese of North America for status as a self-ruling archdiocese.

His Eminence had authored several books including *The Eucharist in the Primitive Church*, *Feed My Sheep*, *He Leads Them*, and a number of poems and meditations, and is the co-author of *Out of the Depths Have I Cried*. He penned many articles and monographs in theology and Middle Eastern affairs, as well as translated many literary works into Arabic.

The Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada together with the entire UOCC faithful express our deepest sympathies to the Hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America as well our sincere condolences to Metropolitan Philip's family members.

O Lord, give rest to the soul of your departed servant Metropolitan Philip, in a place of light, a place of refreshment and a place of repose, where there is no sickness, sighing nor sorrow.

Memory Eternal! Вічна Пам'ять!