



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Protocol Number 231/11

November 28, 2011

To the Reverend Priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

My beloved priests, co-workers in the vineyard of our Lord.

I greet you with the joy and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and Savior, I wanted, on behalf of our Holy Eparchial Synod, to wish you and your parish family, God's blessings and strength so that we may be renewed as we prepare to receive the newborn Christ. I also wanted to bring to your attention the following subjects that were discussed by the Holy Eparchial Synod at our last meeting:

1. The retired clergy are responsible to the local Hierarch, in whose area they reside and are accountable to him for any pastoral, administrative and liturgical activities. When necessary they receive permission from the local Hierarch to serve in parishes other than the one in which they reside or to travel to another Metropolis/Archdiocesan District.
2. Clergy from abroad wishing to visit, lecture, serve liturgically or participate in activities within the boundaries of our Holy Archdiocese, in the United States or the Bahamas, need first the permission of their Metropolitan and second the permission of the Archbishop as well as the local Metropolitan where they will be visiting. Anyone wishing to invite clergy from abroad to visit our parishes should seek first the permission of the Archbishop as well their own Metropolitan.
3. Clergy serving in Ministries of the Archdiocese or Pan-Orthodox Ministries or Institutions, nationally and internationally are

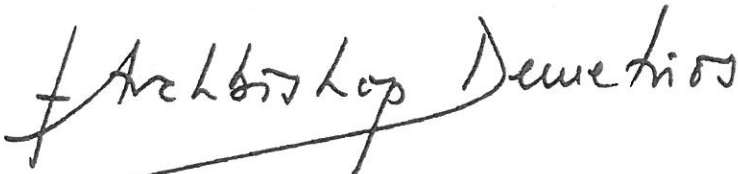
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responsible pastorally and liturgically to the local Hierarch where they work/reside, while administratively are responsible to the Archbishop. The Archbishop has the authority to appoint them or permit them to serve in their positions, transfer them or revoke the permission to serve in these positions.

With the prayer and hope that *all things be done decently and in order*, (I Cor. 14:40) for the glory of God and the wish that you have a blessed Christmas Season, I remain, on behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod,

With paternal love and blessings,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Archbishop Demetrios". A long horizontal line is drawn below the signature, extending from the left side of the page towards the center.

+ DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America