



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 480/2024

October, 2024

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”
(Proverbs 22:6)

Beloved clergy and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings in the Name of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As you conclude the divine liturgy today and get ready to start a new week of facing various pursuits, please give the teens of your parish a moment of attention. Allow these youngsters to minister to you. Receive their bookmark icon of the Annunciation of the Theotokos with enthusiasm. Assist them to give you an opportunity to express your gratitude to God by helping the wonderful ministry of the “Special Olympics” which they support.

As you know, our SOYO teens throughout our Archdiocese have been joining their efforts together for forty-four years to host Special Olympics Sports. They serve athletes that have challenging physical circumstances by providing them a week of athletic training inspired by love and fueled by a blazing desire to demonstrate to them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The impact of your generosity is not going to be limited to helping one of the longest lasting programs of our Antiochian Archdiocese. Rather, it will allow spreading and sharing the love that is inspired by Christ. It will help to train future leaders of our parishes whose lives are Christ focused and strive to learn how to be selfless.

If you do not have your own personal experience of caring for a person with special needs, you might have known someone who has had this life-transforming challenge. You might have come to understand how God allows such challenges in our life for our edification. These people among us are special agents sent to us by God. They are his channels of outpouring divine grace. They open our eyes to see hidden mysteries when we allow our hearts to serve them wholeheartedly.

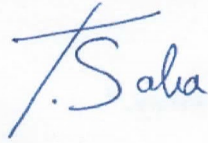
“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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Please find in your heart the generosity to support this ministry not solely by financial means, but through your enthusiasm and encouragement to our young people that have chosen to be part of this life changing ministry.

Asking the Lord to bless the forty-four Special Olympics, the participants, all the supporters, as well as all of you and your loved ones, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The "T" is large and stylized, with a horizontal bar that extends to the right and then loops back down to the left. The "S" is also stylized, with a large loop at the top and a tail that extends to the right.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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