

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

November 1, 2024

*Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damianos
and their mother Theodota*

Beloved in the Lord,

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Glory Forever!

Voting is important ~ devotion is more important! No matter where we go, we cannot get away from political promotions, nor the personal commotion it puts us through.

I wanted to share thoughts on current, and for some of us, urgent concerns about our responsibility as citizens, in two places: the world and the Kingdom of God.

Our lives in this world are given to us by God to prepare for our lives with Him that will never end and go on unto ages of ages. It would be short sighted to mistake preparation here for completion there, first in Heaven and, then, at the Second Coming of Christ, in the New Heaven and the New Earth. We need perspective to put our lives, our choices, our opinions and convictions, in correct order to gain the most spiritual health in the most efficient way.

Therefore, the political and worldly responsibilities, though important, are also not as vital as our eternal, spiritual ones. Voting for someone to assume political office in the world is not as essential as being devoted to the One Who created and care for us.

The best way to take care of things in the world is, first of all, to care of our own soul, *“for what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”* (Mark 8:36) If we live like Christ in the world, which is why we are called Christians, and have the fruits of the Holy Spirit inspire in us, qualities such as *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,”* (Galatians 5:22) then the flavor and freshness of life around us will spread happiness everywhere. If my life is calm with the balm of Christ’s peacefulness, the world will escape the chaos that chases it and rest in the Sabbath it needs. What I am on the inside needs attention before I try to fix things going on outside, in the political, social, and economic world.

Piety to create good conditions in me should precede any form of protest begun to correct bad conditions around me. We want to be part of a solution long term rather than possibly becoming part of the problem short term.

If you can give me more of your time very soon, I would like to include another addition to these remarks when I write you again.

God bless you all and thank you!

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Los Angeles

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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