



The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA

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To The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation on the Occasion of your 16th Annual Awards Banquet and Conference.

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

We rejoice with you as you gather to convene your 16th Annual Awards Banquet and Conference. Although I cannot be present with you in person, please know that my prayers and support for the goals of your organization are assured.

We certainly understand the very difficult circumstances under which our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Holy Land must live. We are mindful of the need to support them in every way possible, through prayer, donations, and by speaking out to the world so as to raise the awareness of their daily struggle. I am particularly impressed by the portion of HCEF's vision which states "Let us work together to replace despair with hope, fear with human security, and humiliation with dignity". Truly this goal is pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ, since it is a goal of respect, care, and compassion for the human person.

Allow me also to congratulate my brother in Christ, His Eminence Theodosios "Atallah" Hannah on his being chosen to receive the HCEF Faith and Tolerance Award. We are aware of his tireless efforts to promote the well being of not only the Christians of the Holy Land, but all of those who are oppressed, and we rejoice in this recognition of his efforts.

We congratulate you on this occasion, and pray that the Almighty God will continue to bless your efforts on behalf of the Christians of the Holy Land.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Joseph

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph'.

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

"...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." ACTS 11:26