



August 1, 2018

No. 08/ 002

His Eminence Nikon  
Archbishop of Boston, New England  
and the Albanian Archdiocese  
P.O. Box 149  
Southbridge, MA. 01550

Your Eminence, Archbishop Nikon

Christ is in our midst!

I am writing at this time to express my gratitude to you and the entire Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese for your excellent contribution to the Orthodox Church in America's 19<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in Saint Louis. Your Eminence's leadership and dedication as a Diocesan Bishop was visible to all the delegates who were present and the selfless offering of the talents and gifts of your clergy and lay delegates is an inspiration to all.

Our successful gathering in Council would not have been possible without the support and prayers of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese. I would like to give personal thanks to Priest Steven Hoskings for his work on the Tellers Team; John Fedak for his work on the Credentials Team; Dr. Richard Comshaw for his work on the Nominations Team; and especially to Priest James Parnell for his work as Chairman of the Resolutions Team.

Please allow me to congratulate Your Eminence on the excellent work being accomplished in the the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese. This was visible to all through the inspiring video presentation from both dioceses which reflects the important work the Albanian Archdiocese has done over the past decades in keeping those of Albanian heritage connected to Christ's Holy Orthodox Church, and the work of the Diocese of New England especially the ministry to our youth through the successful Youth Rally and other such youth events. May our

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate

Lord continue to bless these and all the endeavors of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese.

I am sure you will agree that this Council marked a positive turn in the life of the Orthodox Church in America. Clergy, monastics, laity, youth and even those not present have expressed enthusiasm for the revitalization of our community as it strives to live as a truly local church here in North America. Please express my sincere gratitude to all the members of our diocese for all they have done and continue to do "for the life of the world."

With love in the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Tikhon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent cross-like symbol at the beginning.

+ TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada