



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

October 14-15, 2017

The Vicariate for Palestinian –Jordanian
Orthodox Christian Communities

Dear People of God,

I greet you in the joy and peace of our Lord as you gather for the Vicariate's Second Annual Retreat hosted graciously by the All Saints of North America Orthodox Church in Sun City, Arizona.

The retreat theme, *The Orthodox Family in Crisis*, speaks to a topic with deep relevance within the Holy Orthodox Christian Tradition, which proclaims the family as a divine institution, a special creation of God that bears His Holy Name and Dignity. Many are the social, moral, and technological forces that tear the fabric of Orthodox family life, and sacred is the responsibility we share to preserve the divinely ordained integrity of the family. The retreat has personal importance and spiritual significance to all participants. I am especially grateful to The Very Reverend Archimandrite Damaskinos Alazrai and the learned speakers who have the foresight to organize this event for your spiritual edification.

Please know that while the distances may separate us, you are continually in my thoughts and prayers as you give glory to God in your communities and through your families. We are especially grateful for and proud of the continued growth and progress of the clergy and parishes of the Vicariate.

With my prayers that our Lord and Savior may dwell in your hearts and my best wishes for a spiritually enriching retreat steeped in the bonds of Christian love and fellowship, I remain

With paternal love and esteem
in Christ,

+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America