25/06/2024

Remarks of Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, locum tenens for the Metropolis of Denver At the Enthronement of Metropolitan Constantine of Denver



Your Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, Representative of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,

Your Eminence, beloved brother, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, President of our Holy Eparchial Synod and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America,

Your Eminences, Metropolitans Apostolos of New Jersey and Constantine of Denver,

Beloved brother Hierarchs, presbyters, monastics, and deacons, brethren:

Christ is in our Midst!

He is, was, and always shall be!

We gather today to celebrate the enthronement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Constantine of Denver. This is a moment of joy and gratitude for our Church.

Above all, we give glory and thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the Church, for guiding us to this precise moment in history that will have lasting impact for generations to come.

We also express our special gratitude to His All-Holiness, our Spiritual Father and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the members of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople for their God-inspired decision to elect Metropolitan Constantine as the next Metropolitan of Denver. Their discernment and love have provided a chief-shepherd who will guide you with faith, integrity, and dedication.

We extend heartfelt acknowledgment to His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah, who has faithfully shepherded the Denver Metropolis family for over three decades. His spiritual guidance has profoundly impacted this community, leaving an enduring Christ-inspired legacy.

As Metropolitan Constantine assumes his rightful place on his Hierarchical throne, we are reminded of the sacred ascent of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who ascended into heaven 40 days after His Resurrection to assume His rightful place at the right hand of God the Father. This parallel highlights the divine guidance and blessing that accompanies Metropolitan Constantine as he begins his Archpastoral ministry as your Metropolitan. Just as Christ’s ascent was a sign of His eternal presence and love for the world, we have faith that Metropolitan Constantine’s leadership will be underpinned by divine grace and strength.

This blessed Metropolis of Denver is a vibrant and diverse community, encompassing the faithful from 14 states: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Kansas, Idaho, Wyoming, the western parts of Louisiana and Missouri, and, of course, the great state of Texas! Each state contributes uniquely to the life of the Church and of our sacred Archdiocese:

1. Colorado: Its majestic mountains and strong sense of community remind us of the heights of faith we strive to reach.
2. New Mexico: Rich in cultural heritage and artistic spirit, it reflects the beauty and creativity that God instills in His creation.
3. Utah: The stunning landscapes and commitment to family values symbolize the nurturing environment of our faith.

4. Oklahoma: The resilience and strength of its people echo the steadfastness we are called to exhibit in our spiritual lives.
5. Nebraska: Known for its agricultural abundance, it symbolizes the fruitful harvest that comes from a life devoted to Christ.
6. North Dakota: The wide-open spaces and clear skies reflect the clarity and freedom found in living a life of faith.
7. South Dakota: With its historic landmarks, it reminds us of the importance of our spiritual heritage and traditions.
8. Montana (My personal favorite): The pristine wilderness and tranquil environment symbolize the peace and serenity we find in God's presence.
9. Kansas: Its heartland values and industrious spirit reflect the dedication and hard work we put into our spiritual growth.
10. Idaho: With its rugged landscapes and pioneering spirit, it symbolizes the adventurous journey of faith and the discovery of God's wonders.
11. Wyoming: The vast, open plains and natural beauty symbolize the expansive love of God and the freedom we find in His embrace.
12. Western Louisiana: Known for its rich cultural heritage and hospitality, it reminds us of the warmth and generosity that should characterize our Christian fellowship.
13. Western Missouri: With its historical significance and diverse landscapes, it symbolizes the deep roots and varied expressions of our faith.
14. Texas: Its vastness and bold spirit remind us of the boundless love of God and the courage we must have in our faith journey.

To my dear brother, Metropolitan Constantine, I wish you a spiritually fruitful Archpastoral ministry, always drawing inspiration from the diverse gifts of your flock. Your ascent to this role is a testament to your faith, patience, and dedication to Christ and His people. Please know that you can always depend on me. I will remain by your side, offering support and friendship.

May God grant you many years of health, wisdom, and spiritual fulfillment as you lead the Metropolis of Denver. May your ministry be blessed, and may you continue to inspire and guide the faithful with love and compassion.

Axios!

goarch.org