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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America: His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH Attends CAMECT Meeting



On September 17, 2019, His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph attended the fall meeting of CAMECT (Christian Arab and Middle Eastern Churches Together) at the Coptic Orthodox Diocesan Center in Staten Island, NY. He was accompanied by Archdiocese Vicar General Fr. Thomas Zain. Leaders and representatives from the various Christian Churches with roots in the Middle East including Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Maronite Catholic Church, Archbishop Anoushavan of the Armenian Orthodox Eastern Prelacy and a representative from IDC (In Defense of Christians), gathered for their fall meeting hosted by Archbishop Anba David of the Diocese of New York and New England for the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The group discussed the situation of the Christians in the Middle East with each representative giving an update of their particular community's situation. The

biggest concern continues to be the displacement and emigration of the Christians from the Middle East due to a variety of reasons, including persecution and economic factors, as well as the instability due to the various wars in the region.

In the discussions, the Church leaders came up with three goals to work toward in the coming year: sponsorship of a United Nations event on religious freedom, a continued partnership with IDC for the Washington events (which has included the very successful prayer service in the United States Capitol Rotunda last July), and our own Metropolitan's suggestion of having CAMECT leaders and others visit various Middle Eastern countries as a show of support and hope for our people there. They also pledged to be seen together more often, in order to bring the common witness they represent to the American people.

The next meeting will be held in March and will be hosted by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

- Source: antiochian.org