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Congratulatory Message by Archbishop Elpidophoros of America For the 50th Anniversary of Fr. Dennis Strouzas' Ordination to the Priesthood



It is with sentiments of paternal joy that I offer these words of heartfelt Archepiscopal commendation on the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Protopresbyter Dennis Strouzas' ordination to the priesthood. While I am unable to join you in person this evening, kindly know that I am united with all of you in spirit, as you gather collectively in joyful fellowship to celebrate an exemplary clergyman and servant of the Lord, whose legacy has spanned for fifty years. This is why I also appointed the Chancellor of our Archdiocesan District, the Rev. Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Elias Villis, as my personal representative, so as to honor this significant occasion with the proper dignity and respect befitting a high caliber clergyman such as Fr. Dennis.

Tonight, you recognize a monumental journey of unwavering dedication, deep faith and devoted priestly service. Fr. Dennis' golden jubilee marks the completion of fifty years of loving and selfless pastoral outreach, as well as a clerical ministry that is still ongoing. The fruits of his many labors, of course, are evident in this present gathering, which serves as a testament to his unyielding character and commitment to performing the good works of the Lord. Even though his priestly service — in an official capacity — may have concluded seven years ago, the spiritual fruits that he cultivated so diligently over the years continue to blossom within this community. And this leaves you with a lasting imprint of Fr. Dennis' pioneering vision, which is ever developing and ever productive.

Under his watchful care, the Archangel Michael Church of Port Washington — once a vast canvas of untapped potential — was transformed into a resplendent sanctuary for all to gather in worship and prayer to the Almighty. But beyond the physical foundation of brick and mortar, Fr. Dennis' true legacy lies in the spiritual foundation he fostered. His foresight in initiating the Challenge Liturgy exemplifies what it means to possess a compassionate heart that looks beyond any personal

differences, and reaches out to nurture every soul that seeks a deeper connection and relationship with the divine. And it is in this very aspect that every member of the community is connected to one another in a genuine Christian bond of deeply rooted love and affection.

And so, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, may we all offer our deepest gratitude and wholehearted admiration to this good and faithful servant of the Lord, who dedicated his entire life to serving his fellow neighbor. May his dynamic ministry serve as an enduring beacon that inspires current and future generations to walk in the footsteps of Christ. And may his priestly ministry serve as a constant reminder of the profound impact that love, dedication and faith can have in drawing our hearts closer to God. My dear Fr. Dennis, may the Good Lord continue to bless you and your family abundantly for many more years to come. Many, many congratulations to you on this special anniversary, and a blessed evening to all!

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