



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: PV017/2022

December 9, 2022

Dear Khouria Diana Mary, Father Jason, and Khouria Cadie,

Dear ones in Christ present at this holy service to pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, Reverend Father John Falcone,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Today we mourn the departure from this life of Father John Falcone, a faithful priest and minister of the Most High. Whenever a loved one dies, we are confronted with the impermanence of worldly things. The funeral service focuses our attention on this fact, proclaiming to us, in the words of St. John of Damascus, “All mortal things are vanity and exist not after death. Riches endure not, neither doth glory accompany on the way. For when death cometh, all these things vanish utterly.” Those who have spent their lives chasing such worldly vanities are bound to suffer the loss of them all. On the other hand, those who invest their lives in God’s Kingdom will carry spiritual riches into eternity. The faith they demonstrated, the love they showed toward God and man, the souls they brightened—all these will remain with them as “treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:20).

Father John was clearly this latter kind of person. He invested in God’s Kingdom diligently, throughout his life. From an early age, he served as a priest or pastor in different Christian traditions until discovering and embracing the Holy Orthodox Faith and becoming an Orthodox priest. In a self-denying manner, he cared for his people’s spiritual and emotional needs. He especially devoted himself to the education of children—in the Faith and in general, earning degrees so that he could teach the educationally handicapped and disadvantaged. With his deep academic background, he also taught classes for adults in his parishes. In all these ways, he invested himself fully in ministry for the Lord and stored up an incorruptible treasure of love with the Lord in heaven. Today the Lord calls upon Father John, saying to him: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matt. 25:21).

On behalf of His Beatitude Patriarch John X, and joined by my brother hierarchs, the reverend clergy, the esteemed trustees, and the pious faithful of this archdiocese, I offer sincere condolences on the passing into eternal life of our beloved Father John. May his memory be eternal! And may God grant comfort to all who mourn him.

Yours in Christ,
✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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