



Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America

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Metropolitan Tikhon
Locum Tenens of Boston, New England
and the Albanian Archdiocese

Igumen Nikodhim
Interim Chancellor

October 15, 2021

Dear Brother in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! Krishti midis nesh!

The Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese prayerfully invites you to tender your name for consideration as our archdiocesan hierarch. For two years, since the repose of the ever-memorable Archbishop Nikon, we have been without a permanent archpastor. In September of this year at our annual diocesan assembly, we brought to a close the cycle of discernment and recruitment initiated in the autumn of 2019. Hampered both by our grief and the pandemic that has since enshrouded this world, our process was delayed, elongated, and, ultimately, fruitless in providing us with a candidate for this high office. By broad and overwhelming acclamation last month, we return now again to a renewed cycle of this most pressing and grave undertaking.

At this time, we ask that you join us in seeking the will of the Almighty and the guidance of the Great Good Shepherd, prayerfully reflecting on whether He may be calling you to this holy pasture. Our Archdiocesan Constitution instructs thus for qualified candidates:

The candidate for the office of Bishop must satisfy all the requirements of the Holy Canons pertaining to this highest of all ecclesiastical offices. In addition, it is preferable that he have completed a course of study in a Graduate School of Orthodox Theology and that he be conversant in the English language.

If he is not already a Bishop, he can be nominated only from among the monastic or celibate clergy or laymen. If at the moment of his nomination he is a layman or a celibate or widowed priest, he shall pronounce at least the first monastic vows (rasophoria). Diocesan Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America shall not be candidates for nomination by the Archdiocesan Council. If the candidate is not a citizen of the United States of America, he shall declare his intention to become a citizen in his statement of intention for candidacy and shall take immediate steps to become a citizen upon his election.

Further, it is our hope that those who apply will also possess strong pastoral, interpersonal, and administrative skills as befit this high office and that this individual will be prepared both for the care of the Orthodox faithful of our Archdiocese and of the uniquely interconfessional community that Albanians and Albanian-Americans comprise. Ideally, our archpastor will also be competent in the Albanian tongue or willing to learn its rudiments and utilize this language liturgically as may be appropriate or needful. It is our prayer, too, that our bishop will guide us into a future, strengthening what is here while broadening, augmenting, and fostering our diocese into new avenues of growth. To this end, we seek a man not only prayerful and rooted in the ancient and proud traditions of our faith and culture but also committed to gazing forward from these, unafraid to use new tools, new strategies, to lead all into Christ's coming Kingdom.

Brother, we ask your prayers, and if you sense even some small tug of God's pull, please submit a letter of intention and an updated Corpus Vitae to our archdiocesan chancery by **November 12, 2021**. Thereafter, these submissions will be presented to the Holy Synod for review. Applications may be mailed electronically to: audra.saintgeorgecathedral@gmail.com or, by hard copy via USPS, FedEx, UPS, or DHL addressed to:

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese
Attn: Bishop Applications
517 East Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127

Yours in Christ,

Igumen Nikodhim