

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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Appeal for Special Olympics Sports Camp

Beloved clergy and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This coming year marks the 46th year that our Teen SOYO chapters have sponsored and participated in the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. We have now entered the third generation of this wonderful ministry—an experience that is life-changing not only for the Special Olympians, but also for our teens who learn invaluable lessons of love, compassion, service, and faith as they accompany and assist these athletes in competition.

Each year, Teen SOYO sponsors—free of charge—a week filled with joy, fellowship, and faith for more than 320 athletes and coaches. I had the honor to be present this year and share in this experience. I even met and spoke with one Special Olympian, Loretta Claiborne, who has not missed one year at Antiochian Village for Sports Camp. She said, “If I get a call to go to the White House and it’s August, I’ll tell them, ‘Wait a hot beat, I’m sorry, I can’t go. I’ll be on God’s mountain.’”

And Loretta means it! She has met with every sitting U.S. president in her lifetime and received numerous invitations to the White House. One year, she declined a run with President Clinton to attend Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. This is dedication and this is the love that this special place cultivates not only among our Orthodox faithful, but to all who ascend this holy mountain.

For Loretta and all our beloved Special Olympians—and because of the ever-increasing costs of providing this blessed experience for them—we ask each year that our faithful help offset the expenses of this outreach of love. Through your generosity, you make it possible for this ministry to continue touching lives and bringing the love of Christ to so many.

In appreciation, our teens will once again offer a beautiful icon card. This year’s card features the patrons of our Holy Antiochian See, Ss. Peter and Paul, as a reminder of our spiritual roots and mother Church, the Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East.

Praying that our Lord will bless all who participate, serve, assist, and contribute to this beautiful cause, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+**SABA**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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